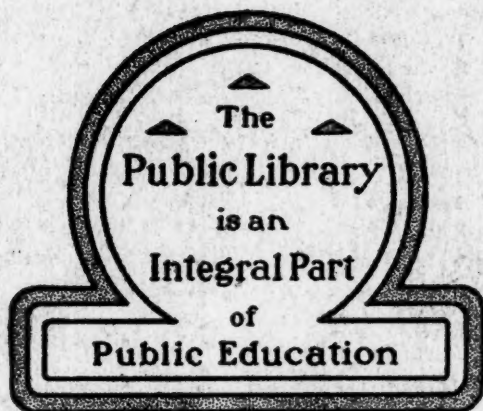


Vol. 13

March, 1908

No. 3

# Public Libraries



Library Bureau  
156 Wabash Ave.

Chicago, Illinois

# AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PUBLISHING BOARD

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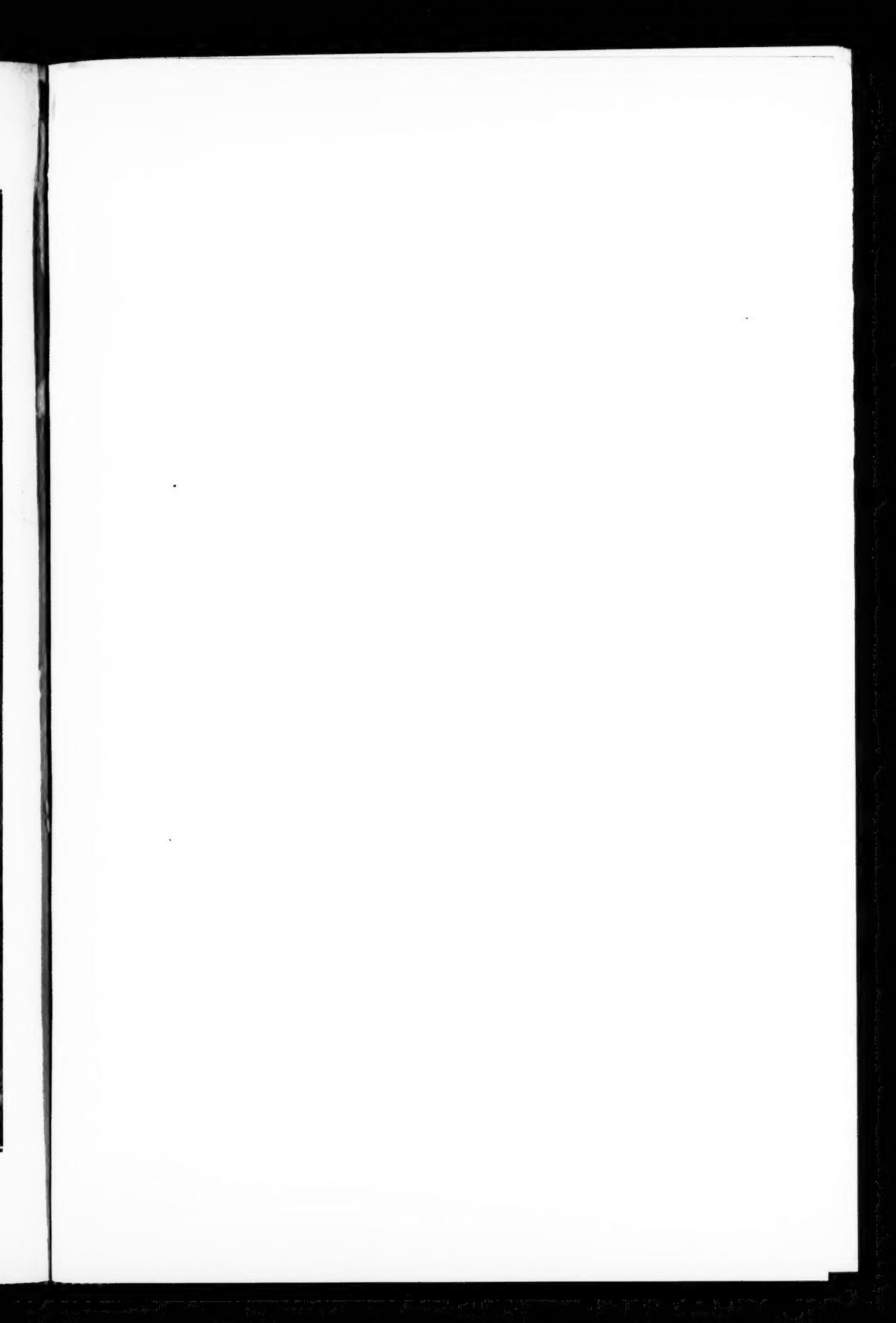
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# Public Libraries

A monthly publication devoted to the advancement of library work

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# Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

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March, 1908.

No. 3

## Library Work in the Factories\*

Aniela Poray, Public library, Detroit, Mich.

Our experience in the library work at the factories is still so brief that perhaps it would be well to consider it in the light of problems and difficulties. To establish a library station at a factory appears on the surface a comparatively easy undertaking. Perhaps the two difficulties that impress one most at the early stage of this work are the eventual inability to supply an ever-growing throng of manufacturers clamoring for books, and the fear of what will happen when we have library stations at all the factories and there will be no more to supply.

Neither calamity has occurred as yet, and there is not much danger that it will. The enthusiasm for new work obscured few of the stumbling blocks; some are removed, others are still with us. We have gained, however, a clearer vision of what to do and what not to do.

Before this work is actually begun it is well to have the most important features decided upon. There are two distinct types of problems to deal with: the library problems and the factory problems. The former includes the important question whether the library will establish deposit stations or delivery stations.

By deposit station I mean a collection of books sent to the factory for from three to five months, the books to be issued there on certain days under the same rules and regulations as at the

main library. As a rule the readers have access to the shelves. After the period agreed upon expires, the first deposit is returned to the library and a new one is sent in its place.

At the delivery station there are no books, the library supplies in their place a full set of catalogs and call lists. The factory readers fill out their requests for books wanted; the library assistant calls for these requests and takes them together with the library cards of the applicants to the Central library. The books that are in are charged on the cards and returned to the factory; in case a book asked for is out, the applicant must wait until the library assistant makes her weekly or semi-weekly call. It is not always wise to substitute another book, as the choice of the library assistant may not be satisfactory to the reader.

Each system has its drawbacks; but judging from our experience, the deposit stations seem to be more practical. The chief argument in favor of the delivery stations is the fact that the reader has the contents of the entire library at his disposal; while in the deposit station he is supposed to be limited to the 200 or 300 books comprising the deposit collection. We supply, however, the catalogs as well as the books. Any book may be selected, and if it is in the assistant will bring it on her next trip to the factory. Besides, when a book cannot be loaned to the factory for the usual three or five months because of its popularity, and the factory readers are asking for it, I charge the book to myself and reissue

\*Read before Michigan library association.

it to the person who wanted it. This applies only to non-fiction books, for which there are no reserve postals.

Thus far this plan has worked quite well; of course if the requests became too numerous the carrying of books would have to be abandoned in favor of a more suitable mode of delivery. The worst feature of this scheme is that the books which would be of the greatest value to the factory readers are very often those that are much in demand at the central library. This objectionable feature would apply as well to the delivery stations. Our deposits are changed quite frequently, and I do not think that this system limits to any great extent the choice of books of our factory readers.

The next thing to be considered is the supply of books, or rather the source of it. If a library is so exceptionally fortunate as to possess an income adequate to her needs I would urge the purchase of new books, or new copies for each of the stations. New, clean, attractive looking books tempt the eye. I find that books in fresh bindings are invariably selected in preference to those in soiled. When the library finances do not permit the purchase of new books, the duplicate copies from the central library may be used for this purpose. We compromised by supplying some old copies, with a fair sprinkling of the new.

In instances where books are purchased specially for the factories the word "special" is stamped across the inside label, thus indicating that these books belong to the factory collection. There is a card author entry for each of these books with the initial of the factory written in pencil in the upper right-hand corner; these initials are changed when the books are sent to another factory. Special books are interchanged between the factories, while the used duplicates from the central library are checked off on their return and put back in circulation. When a non-fiction book of which there is only one copy in the library is sent to the

factory, a piece of cardboard about 5x9 is put in its place. On this card is noted the book number, date when it was loaned and the name of the factory. If a book is called for to any extent at the central library, we recall it and put it back in circulation.

When the matter of deposit or delivery stations is decided upon, as well as the source of the supply of the books for the factories, the most important library problems are disposed of. The factory phase of this work is to create a demand which the library must be ready to supply. It may sound unprofessional, still I am tempted to say that the distribution of books is a business proposition and should be treated as such. True, the library is not paid so much per hundred or thousand books circulated, but the capital invested in the library work must bring the dividends in the extension of its usefulness. In a large measure this can only be done through an increased circulation, which after all is the best proof whether we are reaching those who hitherto have not taken advantage of library facilities. But if a certain class of readers cannot be brought to the library, then let us take the library to them. When a manufacturer wishes to dispose of his goods he does not continue to manufacture them indefinitely, taking for granted that because his article is good the public must recognize its merits and will buy it immediately. Instead, he brings his wares to the notice of the people by judicious advertisement. He has a good thing and it is his duty to convince others of it. Don't be afraid; I am not advocating flaming posters next to those announcing the coming circus, moving pictures, or even those nice electric signs. There are dignified ways of keeping the library in the minds of the people, but the best advertisement is a live one in a person of an energetic, wide-awake library missionary. We have religious, medical, educational missionaries; why not a library one? Her duty would be to create a demand for books, and stimu-

late the reading habit among those people whom the library thus far has failed to reach. I assure you there is a wide field for that kind of work in the factories. It is a field rich in promises and some day will be rich in results.

Before I called on any of the manufacturers I must confess that I had the worst case of stage fright I ever experienced. After I made my call I realized that they were not at all formidable people. My experience with them has been most fortunate; except in one instance, I have met with unfailing courtesy and kindness. They were never too busy to listen to me, and as a body they show far more appreciation of our efforts to reach their working people than they are generally given credit for. Still it is well to remember that no matter how much they may be interested in our work of library extension, they are business men whose time is exceedingly limited. The entire scheme in its minutest detail must be tabulated in one's mind and stated in as few words as possible. But there must not be an answer lacking to any of the questions asked. If an average manufacturer who is at all sympathetic to our work can be convinced that he has some space in his already crowded factory which could be used for library purposes, everything else is a mere detail. In one case we waited several months until an annex was built and then established a library station.

We had some cards printed (about 11x15), calling the attention of the working people that library cards will be issued to applicants. These were hung throughout the shop. Sometimes a manager would speak to his employees during the noon hour, telling them of our work and commending it. I was usually there to issue the cards. Occasionally I left them with a member of the local office staff, whose name was inserted in the blank space of our advertising card. After the application blanks were stamped with the name of the firm as a surety, they were mailed to the central library to be verified. If

the applicant had no previous card, we issued him one, which entitled him to take books from the factory, any of our branches or the central library.

There are three duties incumbent upon the manufacturer who has a library station in his factory: he provides book cases or shelves, sends for the books and returns them to the library, and he becomes surety for his employees while they are in his employ, his obligations ceasing when they leave. The library provides the timekeeper with a set of cards giving the name of the card holder, the card number and the date of issue. The timekeeper consults this record when someone leaves the employ, and if there is a library card issued to this person, it must be surrendered free of charges before he is paid in full. Thus far we have lost only one book; the card holder paid for it.

In the past occasionally someone from the office staff was appointed the acting librarian. But unless there is a so-called welfare worker in the shop, whose duty it is to look after the personal welfare of the working people, it would be far preferable to have a library assistant attend to the library work. We tried both experiments and the latter is far more satisfactory. No matter how willing anyone may be to do this, it means, after all, additional duties that are new, unfamiliar and must be learned. Working men and women have enough to do, and additional duties will sooner or later pall upon them. "If you want the work done well, do it yourself." In one place one of the owners donated two book-cases and established a library almost in the center of an immense dining-room. The place is admirably lighted and ventilated. Books are issued every Wednesday and Saturday, from 11:30 to 12:30. During the winter months the library is the center of great activity; the table where the books are issued is at times surrounded five deep. You must be able to answer questions, return and charge the books, and issue new cards all at the same time.



But no one can find better-natured people than our factory readers.

The deposit station at the Burroughs Adding Machine Company is in a large, well-furnished rest room. The assistant forelady helps to return the books, while the library assistant issues them. The library is open every Friday, 11:30 to 12:30. At Hamilton Carhartt's we have a large circulation of foreign books, owing to the great number of German and Polish employes. Miss Walsh, who has charge of the welfare work, keeps the library open every day during the working hours. She takes great interest in library work and renders excellent service. The charging system is the same as in the Central library, the card holders being subject to all the rules and regulations governing library patrons in general.

We had our ups and down in this work. We had to withdraw two deposits; one owing to the transient nature of the workingmen, who would apply for a card one week and surrender it the next. The other at one time was our banner station, leading all the others in circulation; a change in the management did not result favorably to the interests of our work. The new manager was not only out of sympathy, but was positively hostile. The growth of the library work in the factory depends largely upon the management, and its ultimate success lies in the harmonious coöperation of the manufacturers and the library. Both of these factory stations were in charge of a librarian appointed from the office staff, and although I have no doubt they did their best, still I repeat again "Do it yourself." It is a significant fact that I find the percentage of working men and women who have library cards exceedingly small. Factory deposit stations do not merely bring the books to those who are already users of the library, but rather create a demand for books among those who have hitherto deprived themselves unconsciously of the blessing of good reading. I was surprised to find such a

large number of people to whom the library was an unknown institution. And they are not all foreigners. Over and over again I had to repeat "absolutely no charges for books and cards."

A library worker doing this work must be like a skillful angler dangling a bait; not too insistent upon its being taken, but shrewd enough to have the bait too tempting to resist. While in the factory she must be an organic part of it; not merely with the working people, but one of them. Not friendly to them, but rather their friend. It is necessary for her to know something of every book on the shelves. If a reader wants something sad and lacrymose, it would be fatal to one's reputation to suggest the Virginian or Helen's babies. When a young woman asks for a good love story, it will never do to recommend Dickens or even Scott and insist that either of the two is infinitely better than some novel in a modern setting by a modern author. From a literary point of view we may be right, but we ought to cater to her taste to some extent so far as it is not unwholesome.

Nine-tenths of our factory readers are girls, and the question what they should read has often been discussed. Everyone engaged in library work must admit that there is a wide discrepancy between our idea of what the people should read, and what they actually will read.

In selecting the books for a factory station it is well to bear in mind the homely saying that you can bring a horse to water, but you cannot make him drink. There is no doubt that both men and women prefer fiction to other classes of literature, but this predilection for romantic literature is not confined to factory readers alone. It is the spirit of the age. The large percentage of fiction read in every library, notwithstanding all the efforts to the contrary, indicates that it is almost useless to struggle against it. Some day the pendulum will swing back, and

the public will clamor for some other class of reading.

Magazines like the Harper, Century, Scribner and McClure make splendid substitutes for novels. There is sufficient amount of fiction in every one of them to make them interesting, and still the non-fiction reading looks attractive, with good illustrations telling part of the story, tempt the reader to go on, read the rest and find out all about it. Some girls tire eventually of the hair-breadth escapes, and the imaginary kingdoms with the beautiful princesses waiting to be rescued by some gallant American. We watch for this, it is our opportunity, and we try to make the most of it. Speaking figuratively, we must have a hand ready at their elbow, to steady them, and gently guide them. But it is useless to attempt to dictate, even in the kindest manner, to our factory readers what they should read.

There is no doubt that the influence of this work will be in time felt at the factories. We have now few girls who are studying the English language with a grim determination to know something about it, and you must remember that the time for their studies comes after a long day of hard work. The desire to use better language is almost universal among the girls, who frequently ask for books on this subject. Occasionally we send a book on domestic economy. This spring there was quite a demand for books on gardening. Biographies sometimes are asked for, irrespective of the subject. They want to know about men and women whose lives were spent in doing things instead of dreaming them. No matter if it is fiction, history or biography, there must be plenty of action in it. I do not say that the percentage of non-fiction reading is large; I realize that many will continue to read novels exclusively, but the novels provided by the Detroit library are good and wholesome, even if they are not always considered the best literature from our point of view. At all events they will

never give the girls wrong impressions of life.

I wonder how many in this audience actually knows a factory girl. I venture to say were you to meet her, she would prove to you a very pleasant surprise as well as education. To me she was both. As a body the factory girls are happy, cheerful and generous. Many of them are gentle-voiced, well bred, innately refined girls, who are striving to keep step in the universal march toward better and higher things in life. I do not claim that they possess all the virtues under the sun; in common with the rest of the children of our great human family they have their faults, but they also have their virtues. If you know them well, know them intimately, you will realize that their strong points outweigh the weak. It may not be out of place to mention that I hear less slang among the factory girls than among the high school boys and girls.

It may sound well for the sake of reports and statistics to say that certain factories were supplied with books on philosophy, science, sociology, etc. But will they be read, or will they merely serve as a monument to good intentions? It is not enough to supply books; the fact that they are standing in some corner, forgotten and unread does not mean library work at the factories. Their material presence is of little value unless they are read. Books that are never opened will not prove very important factors in the lives of our working men and women. Better a good wholesome novel, wept over, or laughed over and enjoyed, than the best book written of which after the first 20 pages the reader will tire and leave it unread. Do not let us aim too high, lest we fail to hit the mark.

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The only difference between the library and the school is that the former is under a different board of directors and has no age limit. It is a life school and a life pleasure ground.

### The Human Interest in Library Work in a Mining District\*

Anna J. Fiske, assistant, Calumet and Hecla  
public library, Michigan

Calumet is typical in many respects of all mining communities in northern Michigan and perhaps of those in other parts of the country, if we except the coal regions, which present problems fortunately unknown in the iron and copper country. We feel our comparative isolation, yet by the law of compensation we are in some respects better off than the dwellers in a large city. As an example, we have no poverty as it is found in large cities. Our communities offer a good field for library work—work which meets with an enthusiastic response from all classes of the population. We have a large proportion of foreigners in our population. Calumet, the district which our library covers, contains perhaps 20,000.

Of the foreign nationalities in Calumet the Finns take the lead in point of numbers, at least half of the population of the county is said to belong to that nationality. Probably the next most numerous are the English-speaking nationalities taken as a class, including the English, Scotch, Irish and Welsh. After these in varying ratios come Germans, French, Italians, Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Belgians, Dutch, Slovaks, Croatians, Poles, Russians, Swiss, Hebrews, Syrians, Armenians, Chinese, negroes and Indians, and doubtless a few others. It will be readily seen our library work has to do largely with foreigners, but we have no Finnish colony, no Little Italy and no Polish quarter. The different nationalities are scattered throughout the town, living side by side, and often in the same building. This makes it distinctly less pleasant for those who have attained to the better class of homes, but it certainly is a great influence in assimilating the less fortunate ones who live beside them.

Our library supplies books to all the employes of the corporation and also

to the entire population of two adjoining villages. It also grants students' cards to the residents of the neighboring mines and villages, on which they may take out non-fiction.

In a mining community (or in any other for that matter) the library building itself exercises a great influence on the people. Many of the members of the community, while having plenty to eat and wear, and living in homes that may be infinitely better than those they left in their native land, have really no conception of what a home should be, judged by American standards. Those who happen to live near a home of the better class learn by observation, but there are many who do not have the opportunity to see the inside of such a home, and it is these who get their first ideas of improvement from the school-room and library. So we believe in giving the library as homelike a look as possible, and in doing away as much as may be with the "public building" aspect of things.

One of the things which contributes more than anything else to the homelike appearance of the building is the presence of plants and flowers, and with a very little trouble and expense, ferns, palms and a succession of blossoms may be had the year round. A very few flowers may be made effective if properly arranged. In summer it often takes the entire morning of one person to arrange them, but we consider it time well invested, bringing large returns in the pleasure and interest of all classes of our patrons, and eliciting many questions both in regard to the flowers themselves and to their arrangement. In September when we send for our bulbs for winter blossoming we put up a large and attractive bulletin showing the different varieties of flowers and giving also a list of books and articles on bulb culture. When later in the year we bring in branches of fruit trees and flowering shrubs for forcing, there are always many who question and then go home to imitate. If the children can be interested to

\*Excerpts from paper read at the Michigan library association meeting, June 6-8, 1907.



bring in wild flowers it adds to their knowledge of the flora of the region, besides giving them the feeling of "belonging," which is good for them and for us.

Modern educators all agree that beauty has a physiological as well as a psychological effect upon the child, and should have a large part in every scheme of education. This need of beautiful things the library may help to supply not only by having a building in itself beautiful and in adorning it with plants and flowers, but also by the placing of good pictures on its walls and in providing plaster casts of at least a few of the great pieces of sculpture. A collection of pictures prepared for circulation is more necessary in an isolated community like ours than in a large city or nearby town. Far from any large city with handsome buildings, art galleries and beautiful parks, we are nearly as far from any fine farming country. There are children in Calumet who not only have seen none of the world's art treasures, but they have never even seen a sheep. You can see that there will be a great lack in the lives of these children unless in some way the deficiency can be at least partly filled. This the picture collection helps to do. Bird study and other branches of nature work gain an added attractiveness when illustrated by pictures, and geography and history lose much of their dryness when glimpses are obtained of the regions described in the text-books. Our library circulates an average of 6000 pictures yearly, and I am sure that the good they do is inestimable. In considering the mining community one is apt to think of the workman as being all miners, and I am frequently asked, "What about the miners; do they read?" The miners certainly do read; in fact, it is said that the population of a mining town always has a much larger proportion of readers than that of a manufacturing town. The very large circulation of books by our library in proportion to the size of the town

would seem to bear out this statement. However, in a mining community perhaps not more than half or two-thirds of the men actually work underground. The remainder includes the surface men (day laborers), those in all mechanical trades and in the engineering or other professions, besides the merchants and other tradesmen who supply the wants of the community.

It is sometimes hard for the librarian to judge of the value of books treating of the different industries with which she is not at all familiar, but in every branch of labor there is sure to be one man and probably more who can judge for her, and who perhaps takes a periodical devoted to his trade which gives book reviews which she would otherwise not see. Interest all such and you will receive valuable lists of books and will also secure readers.

It is not enough to have the books in the library: they must also be called to the attention of the men, many of whom have never been in the habit of turning to books for help and who will not do so unless some special effort is made. We do this largely by means of lists which are taken directly to the men at their places of work. Some of the most useful lists we have ever issued have been those on various branches of mechanical industry and engineering and a list of the contents of the International library of technology issued by the Scranton correspondence schools. This latter list brought especially large returns in the way of increased circulation.

Where there is such a large foreign population it seems almost imperative that at least the nationalities having the most numerous representation should be supplied with reading matter in their own languages. The mining company to which our library belongs recognizes this need, and we therefore have a collection of foreign books, small perhaps as compared with the collection of the large libraries, but well suited to our needs and serving as a good basis for a larger collection. We have at present

a little more than 3200 v. divided among nine languages: German, French, Italian, Swedish, Norwegian, Finnish, Polish, Slovenian and Croatian.

That they are appreciated is shown by their large circulation, which has averaged so far about 10,000 v. yearly, which is more than three times the entire number of volumes in the collection. I wish that the powers that be not only in mining communities but in every community where there are large numbers of foreign residents might see the great value of this branch of library work and realize what an important factor it is in the making of contented and useful citizens.

It may be objected that if foreigners expect to live in this country they should learn to read English, and so the younger part of the foreign population should and do. There must necessarily a considerable time elapse before a reading knowledge can be acquired. In the meantime these people should have *something* to read.

It will be found that many of our foreign patrons even among those who do not make any pretension to a good education are able to read two or even three languages, and this accomplishment enables them to have a much larger choice of books than they would otherwise have. Many of the Swedes and Norwegians read both languages and Danish as well. Some of the better class of Finns read Swedish and many French and Italians take out books in both languages. To make a collection of foreign books as useful as it should be, it seems to me that open shelves are almost indispensable. Not only do our foreign patrons frequently spend an hour in the stack looking over the books in their own language, but we often find those who have learned to read a little English looking through the English books also. Of course, some one occasionally goes out with a book without having it charged; in fact, the first year we had our Austrian books we lost more books from the stack than ever before or since (about 40), and

of these 25 were Slovenian. That was five years ago, and those books have been coming in ever since. Some have been found in boarding-houses, some have been returned by the young brothers and sisters of the original borrowers, and I believe that very few of them were taken out with any dishonest intention. It was only that it was harder for that particular nationality to learn the ways of a public library.

In choosing books for our foreign collections there are certain kinds that we try always to include: dictionaries, of course; a Bible which is always attainable; a New Testament, with the foreign and English text in parallel columns, which may be had in some of the languages mentioned; translations of all the good English and American fiction possible to attain, and translations or original works on American history and biography; and, in fact, any books describing America and its institutions. In some of the languages, particularly the Slovenian and Croatian, it is unfortunately almost impossible to obtain anything on these subjects. After we have provided for these we get a miscellaneous assortment, including travel, popular science and, of course, a rather large proportion of fiction, getting illustrated editions when possible.

The reading room should be supplied with periodicals in each foreign language represented in the books. We try to have at least two in each language, and the back numbers of these periodicals are circulated in the same way as are those in our own language. In order to supplement the very limited number of books on America and its institutions, it would be desirable to have a series of talks on these and kindred subjects for the people of each nationality in their own language. I cannot see that in the use of English books the mining community differs from any other, unless the percentage of fiction drawn may be a little lower than the average.

Any library, but especially one which is small enough to allow a personal

knowledge of a large proportion of its patrons, will readily see the influence the library exercises in the formation of good manners among a certain class of the population. Prof. Shaler has told us in one of his books that "A little consideration of the subject of manners will show that the matter is of sufficient importance to lift it to the level of citizenly duty and accomplishment," and that "every citizen should have good manners even as he should be able to talk, read and write as a part of his fitting for the ordinary duties of life." If this be true, it follows that the library may help in this direction to make better citizens of some of those with whom it comes in contact. Invariably courteous treatment and kindly consideration on the part of the library force will nearly always insure the same in return, while the respect for the rights of others which the use of the library teaches both children and adults must affect to a greater or less extent their relations to each other outside the library.

The library may also insist upon some habits of personal neatness and cleanliness which will in time extend to the home. A library worker cannot go to a home where the mother has the vaguest ideas of cleanliness and tell her that it is her duty to keep her children clean. But if this same mother sends her child to the library for a book for herself and he comes home without it, telling her that owing to the condition of his hands he was not allowed to go into the stack to select it, she begins to get some glimmerings of light. Not that I should send a child home without a book the first time, nor even the second, perhaps. He would be allowed to wash his hands at the library once or twice, but to do any real good the child must be made to feel that he must be clean before he leaves his home. Once having learned that, he is on his way to better things. It is equally true in regard to other personal habits.

In a mining town, as in all others,

the coöperation of libraries and schools is most important. The library may be a very important factor, however, in supplementing the work which the schools have begun. In Calumet (and I am sure it is the same throughout the Michigan mining region) we have no child labor problem, and the truancy laws are strictly enforced. Still there are large numbers of boys and girls who leave school as soon as they are allowed to do so, and after a few years they regret their wasted opportunities and try to add to their very limited education. These employ private tutors, enter the night school or Y. M. C. A. classes, or take up some of the many courses offered by correspondence schools. To all these, and especially the latter class, the library may be of vast service in helping them to fit themselves for their active duties as citizens of our commonwealth.

### The Duties of a Librarian

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

Some people have very liberal views as to the duties of a librarian! Here are two letters which explain my resort to the exclamation point:

State Librarian, Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Sir:—I must have a paper on English literature two weeks from tomorrow, and as the time is short and I am very busy, will you kindly outline a paper for me—such a paper as you would write on this subject. I hope I am not presuming too much on the time of a busy man; but I will be so much obliged if you will do this for me. Enclosed please find a 2-cent stamp.

Yours truly,

Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_

Librarian of State, Des Moines, Iowa.

Dear Sir:—Were you present at the debate held in Des Moines last year on the question, Resolved, That the United States senators should be elected by a popular vote? If so, kindly send me at your earliest convenience a few particulars of both sides of the discussion.

Yours truly,

Both letters were from entire strangers, the last from a student in a city outside our state.

JOHNSON BRIGHAM.

**The Library and Industrial Workers\***

Carry the library to the workers

Sam Walter Foss.

The public library of the past was not public. It existed for that limited part of the public who work with their heads. The public library of the present, and the future must cater more and more to the demands of those who work with their hands.

When Nature supplied man with one brain and two hands she indicated the relative amount of mental and manual work expected of him. By the two-handed activity of mankind the basic structure, the frame and foundation, of our civilization is reared; and we shall be a nation of incompetents and bunglers, or a nation of achievers and industrial captains, in proportion as we educate the great industrial armies that come forward in ever-increasing numbers through successive generations.

The public library has a large and patriotic work to do along these lines. In the first place, it should see to it that books bearing directly upon all trades and industries pursued in its communities are found upon its shelves in sufficient numbers to go around. Let it mix a little masculinity in its over-feminized collections by including all practical books for men who work. Coopers and carpenters, tinsmiths and plumbers, should find as much technical help upon its shelves as clergymen and professors; and the mason's apprentice should be treated with as much regard and generosity as the college student. The young man from a pork-packing establishment, or a soap factory, should not be allowed to go out empty-handed any more than the scholar who asks for the dramas of Euripides or the works of Kant. In fact, it is well to treat the soap man with even greater consideration than the scholar; for the soap man may feel bunglingly helpless

in a library, where the scholar feels very much at home.

And right here, perhaps, is the whole secret. Industrial workers have hitherto, on the whole, kept out of public libraries because of a suspicion—perhaps not entirely without foundation—that they are not wanted there. They are suspicious that they do not know the etiquette of the place. They look upon it as a proper resort for men with bulging heads, but not the place for men with calloused hands. It has taken a generation of cold exclusiveness to generate this idea; but a generation of kindly tact and brotherly sympathy will eradicate it. Let the industrial workers know that all that book reviews and trade journals can tell them may be had from their public libraries for the asking, and we can change the bulk of our American youth in a generation from a horde of aimless bunglers to a well-drilled army of artisans and masterful and productive men.

After all this is done, if the industrial workers will not come to the public library, carry the public library to them. Make distributing stations, if possible, of the great manufacturing plants, the factories and the big shops. It will be easy to get the coöperation of the manufacturers, for they all prefer experts to bunglers.

We are not keeping step in this country to the new industrial music as are some of the European nations. All educational institutions, however, are awakening from this lethargy of industrial indifference; and the public library, as the educator of the old and young, should assume the attitude of leadership in this work. Let us, of course, give our readers the old cultures, the old humanities, the romances, the poems, the philosophies that have charmed and thrilled the world and always will. But for the masterful millions who do things let us furnish the strong and plain, but vital, nutriment that makes the fiber of the race hard, that builds the basic health out of which all the philosophies and all

\*In a recent issue of the *Boston Globe* several librarians answered the question, What can the public libraries do for the industrial needs of a community? These two answers seem general enough to be given here as suggestions.

the romances and all the poems must come.

#### The library should be known

Hiller C. Wellman

The first requisite is a good collection of technical books, kept to date with new editions, and supplemented by periodicals—for the workman wants the process, not of yesterday, but of to-day. Many elementary manuals will be needed, free from higher mathematics, and, like the textbooks of the best correspondence schools, adapted for self-instruction by ambitious persons of intelligence but with limited education.

The next step, and not the easiest, is to make the workmen realize what the library offers. This will tax the library's ingenuity, for it is astonishingly difficult to make its resources widely known. Items and articles in the newspapers, occasional exhibitions or talks at the library, circulars mailed to the trades, and judicious distribution of lists of technical books are helpful.

Concrete examples will best illustrate. Books and pictures are exhibited from time to time, showing, for instance, the library's resources on architecture and building, needlework or design. J. C. Dana's collection of materials and implements illustrating the processes of bookbinding has also been exhibited. The attendance of the persons most interested is invited, and sometimes a special evening set apart for them. Once or twice talks have been given—not of general instruction, for that is left to the school department and other agencies—but about the books. The library is now holding a series of exhibitions of books and plates relating to The home, beginning with domestic architecture and house plans, continuing with interior decoration; floor coverings—carpets, rugs and tapestries; table glass and ceramics, and concluding with landscape gardening.

Descriptive notices of the new books are printed weekly by courtesy of the daily papers; and sometimes circulars or post cards are mailed, as recently

to the steamfitters and to the druggists, calling attention to their particular publications. Special lists of books on technical subjects are printed or mimeographed and distributed freely. Chief among these is a 24-page catalog on engineering and machinery, including also steel working, locomotives, steam turbines, gas and oil engines, automobiles, refrigerating, metallurgy, foundry work, mechanical drawing, etc. Other lists have been issued on a wide variety of subjects, such as carpentry and building, painting and decorating, architecture, drinking water and water works, design—especially for textiles, photo-mechanical engraving, book illustration, printing, alphabets and lettering, advertising and window dressing, shorthand and typewriting, letter writing and punctuation, gardening and agriculture, forestry and poultry keeping.

Simply to issue lists is not enough; ways must be found to get them into the hands of the workers. Sometimes they can be mailed direct to all the firms in the directory with a circular asking to have them called to the attention of employees. Sometimes they are posted or distributed at the factories. The agricultural lists are given out through the poultry or horticultural clubs and the granges; the mechanical lists through engineers' societies, the evening school of trades, the Y. M. C. A. classes and the trades unions.

Perhaps the list of 50 books for lawyers which was mailed to members of the bar should be noted, as well as the fact that the physicians and dentists have contributed funds for building up a strong medical library. Certainly the list of books to aid foreigners in learning English, which was distributed through the evening schools and the "settlement," deserves mention, for it is doing much to increase the industrial value of this class.

Does it pay? In four years, while the population increased about 16 per cent, the use of these technical books increased 145 per cent. But the best testimony is not statistical, but comes



from the men themselves. For example, a textile designer declared that his company was able to beat competition because of the freshness of the designs he got from the library. A young mechanic with an armful of books said he was to get \$3.50 instead of \$2.50 per day, and that he had learned enough to get a job where new machinery is used instead of the old that he was accustomed to. Still another stated that, largely as a result of his reading, he had invented three successful loom devices and had been promoted to assistant superintendent.

Without doubt, to aid bread-winners—so far as may be done by books—whether the workers are professional men, mechanics, farmers or women in the home, is not only an important and useful function of the public library, but one that appeals especially to the hard-headed taxpayer. Many a man with little respect for “belles-lettres” values an institution that promotes the city’s industrial welfare.

The 81 volumes of the International library of technology are kept in the open-shelf room permanently for the benefit of those who work at trades, arts and crafts, and they are appreciated. Every book has been out at least once; only five but once; six, five times; seven, four times; nine, eight times, and of the remainder, from eight to 16 different people have used each separate volume. We have had them less than one year. By familiarizing the working men and artisans with the value of this material they do make use of the library to their advantage and advancement in their various lines of work. The last annual report makes this statement: Since December 1 the library has been tabulating the occupations given on registration cards. Of the total number of 2832 persons registered since December 1, 1193 indicated their occupations. That the library is reaching all classes of citizens is shown by the fact that 167 different occupations have been registered.—Public Library, Grand Rapids, Mich.

### The Library and the Workingman\*

Maud Parsons, librarian, Steel Works club,  
Joliet, Ill.

Today every man is a workingman. Some men work with their heads and some with their hands and heads, but at the present time all men, except the aged and infirm, work. It is true that some reap greater compensation for their labor than others, and it should be the policy of the public library to help those first whose means are limited. This includes usually the man in the trades rather than the professional man, also the man, unskilled, who works by the day. As to ways and means of really helping the laboring public to a greater efficiency in their daily work through reading, it is doubtful if it is within the power of the average public library to do much.

This is the day of skilled labor. The day has passed when one man begins and carries an article through all processes to completion. Today’s work is done in pieces and each man is trained to do one portion of the whole. The average book on mechanics does not interest the skilled workman, because he already *knows* all it contains. It would perhaps be of real help if he could look over the very latest books, even the freak ones, but no ordinary library could possibly keep up to date with the technical books of all trades and professions. New editions are constantly replacing older ones and such advances are being made daily in science that books are practically out of date in a year or two. You can hardly expect a man to take home and read with interest a book describing methods which he knows have long since been relegated to the scrap heap. Of course there are always young men and boys who are studying to better their condition. They might derive some profit of an historical character from books somewhat out of date, but it is a question if even they might not be better employed. The hope of the library

\*Read before Illinois Library Association at Springfield.

which really wants to help its laboring patrons is in the periodicals it puts before them. Get the best and as many as you can and let them circulate. The carpenter will pass by all your books on Carpentry and Strength of materials, etc., but he will take home and enjoy and be benefited by a copy of *Carpentry and Building*.

In some towns where one branch of industry is carried on almost exclusively it is possible for the library to specialize in that branch and really make a creditable and useful collection of technical books. This is the case in the library with which I am connected. It is almost exclusively for the men working in the steel mills. We have specialized in books pertaining to the metallurgy of iron and steel, and we attempt to keep up with the literature of steel making in all its branches. We have issued an annotated booklist of our technical books, and it is supplemented by annotated bulletins published from time to time. These are distributed through the mills, and a copy is always given to each man when he joins the club. It has proven of great use in increasing the circulation of our books on science and useful arts.

Newspaper lists are good advertisers especially if annotated, the open-shelf is one of the best means of getting books in use, but, of course, the very best way is the direct personal interest of the librarian. An interested, sympathetic librarian with the ferreting instinct of a detective, can bring the right man and the right book together with more speed and better results than all the lists ever printed.

While the ordinary library can hardly expect to keep up to date with its scientific books, it should endeavor to get together some of the good reference books for students and workers. Reference books in the small library so many times run to history and art, facts and fancies, quotations, and books to help the children in their school work, and books for the teacher and the club woman, while only the Scientific Ameri-

can receipt book is left to satisfy the workman. One of the best possible reference works for the use of workmen of all trades and most professions is a late edition of one of the correspondence schools textbooks. Those put out by the International or Scranton school are especially good. They can be used easily by anyone of ordinary attainments, the knowledge of mathematics required is not beyond the reach of men with a public school education, and the essential and fundamental facts only are given.

While it is commendable, of course, to induce all people to improve their minds by reading a better grade of books, from personal experience I do not think the case of the workman is the most hopeless. The average workman does read. He reads a newspaper, and sometimes two, daily (and keeps up with the times); he reads the magazines; he is as anxiously looking for "new books" as the minister and lawyer, and is as discriminating in his tastes. He is not to be blamed for objecting to Henry James. He is a man of action and wants books of action. Give him the Crisis, the Blazed trail, and the Virginian, and romances like Graustark. Nor does he read fiction entirely, although after a hard and hot day's work fiction seems to meet his wants. Ordinarily he reads and enjoys books of travel when entertainingly written, like In search of a Siberian Klondyke. With him biography is popular. In fact, there is little class distinction nowadays in the reading of the man in the trades and the man in the professions. If anything, the opinion of the man of the shops is better, for his judgment of a book is honestly given. He either likes it, or he does not, and he is not inclined to pretend to like what he does not, simply because it is the fashion.

In conclusion it seems to me that we should not look too closely at the library circulation. The man is of much more importance. Consider his wants and wishes and give him what he wants, always seeing, of course, that you have

nothing harmful in your library to tempt him. Give him fiction if he wants it and let him get his history and science and travel from the magazines and newspapers if he prefers—even if it takes the per cent of fiction up to 80. You may console yourself with the knowledge that your fiction is the best and better than the newspapers have, or else he would take his fiction in instalments, too.

### Selection of Technical Books

A paper by William P. Cutter of the Forbes library, Northampton, Mass., on the Selection of technical books, at a recent meeting of the Connecticut library association, had the following helpful suggestions:

In starting to develop a technical collection we should first look near at hand for the every-day industries and buy books on those. Home-making is the most common industry. Books on home architecture, on flower and vegetable gardens, dressmaking, cooking, care of children, and the like, will be read by a large and thoughtful number of the community. Let the books bought be practical until there is a call for the theoretical. For the men and boys get books on amusements and sports, for the women on fancy work, pyrography, bridge.

After home life and amusements are provided for, take home industries. Get books or magazines on facial massage and hairdressing for the barber, on design for the jeweler, on horses for the liveryman. In farming communities have books on poultry, bee-keeping, fertilizers, dairying. Make use of the publications of the Department of Agriculture.

Those who live in manufacturing towns should have books on the manufacturing of the town; if possible, securing books which treat the industry from all sides, giving the history as well\* as theory and practice of the work. Danbury should have books on

hats, Bridgeport on the sewing-machine, on firearms and clocks.

How are you to find out about these books, and where to get them? First, take Severance's Guide to current periodicals of the United States and Canada. This gives lists of periodicals on different subjects. Find those on the industry you are looking up. Write to the editors of these papers, enclosing stamps and asking for sample copy of the magazine and for titles of the best modern works on the subject. You are pretty sure to get answers from some of them. Then write to your book dealer or the publishers and ask to have the books sent on approval. Show them to the managers of the manufactories and get their opinion. Probably you will also succeed in arousing their interest so that they will be willing to bulletin your books in their workshops. Technical journals are the best sources of reviews on technical books. Any others are almost useless. Buy no old technical books. Look out for those published first in England and reissued in America under American imprint.

### Other Things Than Books\*

It is true that among librarians, indeed I may say among teachers and all educational and literary workers, there is a strong tendency to exalt the profession of letters above the trades, crafts, and other practical branches of knowledge. We are inclined to smile pityingly when some ludicrous blunder is made by a person not versed in books and authors. The kindest of us do this, while those less thoughtful may even ridicule such blunder. Why? One mind cannot contain all things. The man who never heard of the Ramayana and has only a vague knowledge that there was once a man called Shakespeare, may have within his brain the embryo of an invention which will rev-

\*From an address by Miss Rosenberg of the Public library, Grand Rapids, Mich.



olutionize history. I remember a man with horny hands and most unfashionable clothes once asked me for the Lighthouse on a stick. He had heard of such a book and would like to know what it was. I could only smother a laugh by appearing most preternaturally solemn, then explained that the Houseboat on the Styx was a merry little tale of the post mortem adventures of some worthies who departed this life ages ago, or words to that effect. My seeker after knowledge was disgusted. He did not want to know anything about dead folks. Would I give him something about engines? Then he lighted up and talked about sprockets and valves and gears until my amused smile fairly sneaked away and I looked at him in reverence. Yes, I have felt humble before a ragged, dirty, pinched little boy of twelve to whom English grammar was a sealed book, but who knew more about electricity than I could ever learn. The great Edison himself was once a boy with more ideas than his limited speech could correctly express.

Verily there are other things than books worthy of reverence.

### Books in Special Binding

At a recent library meeting complaint was made of slowness in filling orders for the library books in special binding. The matter being brought to the attention of Charles Scribner's Sons, Mr Jenkins, in charge of the library department, writes:

I cannot understand why there should be any delay in securing the books in special bindings, as there was a large enough edition published of all the titles. To be sure, we do require that orders be put in in advance of date of publication in order to have some estimate of the number needed, as of course the demand for books in special binding comes from libraries entirely. At any time that these libraries cannot secure this special binding from their regular agents upon date of publication, if they will kindly notify us direct, we will either send them copies from here or through the agent with whom they deal. Even at this late day we have a few copies left for five of the seven titles issued in special library binding.

### Technical Works in Public Libraries

The following editorial, taken from the supplement of the *Engineering News*, Dec. 12, 1907, on the subject of Technical works in public libraries, may be of interest:

Outside of the collection of a few technical societies and schools, the attention paid by libraries to scientific books is far below that required by their importance. When the average engineer has need for study out of the ordinary line of his work, the necessary limitations of his own library, consisting probably of the standard works of the profession with a few extra treatises on his own specialties, force him to have recourse to the public library. There usually the insatiable demand for popular fiction makes such a drain upon the funds of the institution and the time of its employees that the few technical books which are on the shelves are poorly classified and hard to locate.

The following letter appeared in the *Engineering News*, Jan. 16, 1908:

Sir: My attention was called this morning to the editorial in your issue of Dec. 12 on technical works in public libraries, and it occurred to me that your readers might be interested in knowing that a special room was set aside in the main building of this library as a useful arts room in March, 1902. In this room we have the recent books on applied science to the number of three or four thousand, and there are kept on file 260 periodicals, these mainly on applied science. Our useful arts room is visited each day by 300 persons, most of them men; these are the manufacturers and experts, engineers, chemists, and electricians, and last, but not least, the artisans. Cincinnati is a manufacturing city, and it has been our attempt for the past five years and more to make this department serviceable to such a city. As a bureau of information in applied science, with back of it a great storehouse of bound scientific periodicals and the older books containing such information, it seems probable that this department repays all that the public library costs.

N. D. C. HODGES, Librarian.  
Public library, Cincinnati, O.

With such work being done as is outlined by Mr. Hodges, as well as that in the libraries of Springfield, Mass., Newark, N. J., Grand Rapids, Mich., Brooklyn, and most of the large cities, there is small room for such editorials as the above.

Librarian.

## Public Libraries

(MONTHLY)

Library Bureau	- - - - -	Publishers
M. E. AHERN	- - - - -	Editor
Subscription	- - - - -	\$1 a year
Five copies to one library	- - - - -	\$4 a year
Single number	- - - - -	20 cents
Foreign subscriptions	- - - - -	\$1.35 a year

Entered as second-class matter May 17, 1896, at the Post-office at Chicago, Ill., under act of March 3, 1879.

By the rules of the banks of Chicago an exchange charge of 10 cents is made on all out-of-town checks for \$10 and under. In remitting subscriptions, therefore, checks on New York or Chicago banks or post-office money orders should be sent.

**Industrial education**—The subject of industrial education is occupying the attention of a large part of the interested public at this time and it is meet that the public library as "an integral part of public education" should follow the trend of the times. There has been gathered, for this number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES, therefore, a collection of material bearing on the library's share in industrial education, which it is hoped will prove interesting and helpful to those libraries that may be considering ways of being useful along these lines.

**Index to current events**—There seemed to be recently "a psychological moment" for starting indexes to current events, as recorded in the daily press. In three widely separated places during January work was started along this line without knowledge on the part of anyone that the others were contemplating the work. There is a demand for something of this kind by writers, readers, libraries, colleges and everyone dealing with concrete knowledge of any kind. Whether there is room for all remains to be seen, but at any rate good work by any or all of them will be greatly appreciated.

**One form of advertising**—During the

last two weeks in January evidence accumulated with each day's issue of newspapers, both large and small, which would lead one to think that the publishers of a book, which need not be mentioned, very craftily used the public libraries of the country as a means of advertising their unwholesome product. Librarians, unwarily, lent themselves to these proceedings in some cases by publicly refusing to admit the book to their shelves on account of its unworthiness.

The fact that this form of advertising appeared simultaneously in the newspapers from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast would indicate that it was a preconcerted action on the part of the publishers. Even in cases where the librarian refused to be interviewed in regard to it, the mere refusal was worked up and over to the greatest possible limit for "copy" in which to call the attention of the greatest number of readers to the fact that there was such a book. It need not be said that these readers do not, as a rule, use the public library.

It would seem the part of wisdom on the part of librarians to be deaf, dumb and blind concerning the literature belonging to the class mentioned. Morbid curiosity is after all a very strong factor in the mental make up of the average person, even extraordinary people are not entirely free from it, and in regard to such books as the one under discussion, it is the manifest duty of the librarian to withhold his opinions and comments under such circumstances. Oblivion is the last thing the publisher wishes for a product of such an undesirable character. The utterance of anything savoring of criticism is made to do extra duty in arousing an interest that otherwise would not be directed to such books.

**Revising the constitution of A. L. A.—**

This is a subject that is engaging the attention at present of some of the best minds of the busiest men in the association. They have asked for suggestions and comments from the members of the association, particularly those who are dissatisfied with the present constitution. "Art is difficult, criticism easy," but under the circumstances no one need carry about with him in secret, for the lack of an opportunity to be heard, a scheme which he knows would solve all the difficulties that have beset the pathway of the official machinery in the last few years. Doubtless there are weak places in the plan of organization of the A. L. A., seeing it is the work of finite beings, and, doubtless, they can be remedied and will be as opportunity affords. The over-lapping of authority and duties of the council and the executive board and the relation of each to the Publishing Board causes confusion with attendant loss, occasionally. These are matters which may be settled with good results, and doubtless will be, by the committee having the matter in charge.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES has asked for and will present suggestions that may call for general consideration, with the sole object of giving general distribution to whatever opinion may be thought specially worthy of consideration. What is needed most of all by the A. L. A. at the present time, is a holding fast in loyal devotion to its traditions and ideals and broad unselfish adjustment to the principles of its foundation.

**An example worth following—**It is reported that in 13 days after the close of the year 1907, the Dominion geologi-

cal survey officers of Canada placed in the hands of the public a blue book of 132 pages, covering the work of a staff of persons, a large proportion of whom were engaged, during the year, in geological explorations and mining examinations in Canada extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the reports of which are published nearly all in full. The report does not bear any evidence of undue haste, it is evidently edited with the utmost care and concludes with an elaborate index.

This activity certainly might be taken for a model for most, if not all, the state reports in the United States. To cite a specific case, the state reports of Illinois are, in some instances, several years behind time, while the distribution of the same to the libraries of the state entitled to them or asking for them, is a source of the greatest exasperation. Added to all of this, the indifference of the officials who are in charge of this work in Illinois, to any request or comments or suggestions, adds farther cause for impatience.

This is one of the important features of the State library of Illinois which might, and very likely would be, improved if the library were a separate department with definite duties, originating within itself and which, under such circumstances, it would be able to promote without waiting for the dilatory tactics of political aspirants. Librarians in Illinois who are suffering from these conditions may well look with envious eyes to the promptness of preparation and distribution of public documents as shown by our neighbor on the north.

### Library Reading Course

A librarian who is working almost alone in a state not very far advanced in library extension, sends the following message:

You can hardly know what it means to one situated as I am, too far removed from library clubs and associations to feel even the thought wave of any other librarian, to know that I am one of a number for whom someone is planning and offering inspiration work along the line of my daily endeavor. So long as I combine so many positions in one and fill them all myself, I probably shall not be able to do all the prescribed reading, but I shall do some of it just for the sake of the feeling I mentioned\* and I shall read all of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

With even one such reader as this, the effort spent on this work is quite worth while and an increased effort will be made to give in return full measure of good material.

#### Reading for March\*

Theme—The place of a library in a town.

1) Its value in attracting new residents and in raising the average of intelligence.

2) In supplementing the work of schools, historical societies, natural history clubs, literary societies, and other organizations.

3) A natural place for lectures, educational exhibits, and for collection of matter pertaining to local history.

Public libraries in America, W. I. Fletcher, p. 31-39.

Books and libraries, James Russell Lowell (in Literary and political addresses).

Society and solitude, Ralph Waldo Emerson, p. 118.

The library as the educational center of a town, Arthur E. Bostwick, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, 12:171-174.

#### Literary counsel by Richard Green Moulton

The theory and spirit of literature is to be found in the excellent works of Gurnamere, Posnett, Hamilton Mabie and Shairp. For a general survey of the subject of critical reading I would suggest the following for a start:

The choice of books by Frederic Harrison.

Counsel upon the reading of books, with an introduction by H. Van Dyke.

The latter has the advantage of suggestions in each section for further reading, which may be helpful.

I would emphasize the "few plain maxims" of Dr. Van Dyke.

Read the preface first. The author wanted to say something particular to you before you entered the book. Go in through the front door.

Read plenty of books about people and things, but not too many books about books. Literature is not to be taken in emulsion. The only way to know a great author is to read his works for yourself. That will give you knowledge at first-hand.

Read one book at a time, but never one book alone. Well-born books always have relatives. Follow them up. Learn something about the family if you want to understand the individual. If you have been reading the Idylls of the King, go back to Sir Thomas Malory; if you have been keeping company with Stevenson, travel for a while with Scott, Dumas and Defoe.

Read the old books—those that have stood the test of time. Read them slowly, carefully, thoroughly. They will help you to discriminate among the new ones.

Read no book with which the author has not taken pains enough to write it in a clean, sound, lucid style. Life is short. If he thought so little of his work that he left it in the rough, it is not likely to be worth your pains in reading it.

Read over again the 10 best books that you have already read. The result of this experiment will test your taste, measure your advance, and fit you for progress in the art of reading.

There is a large number of courses of reading that any one might take with profit. It is foolish to stand too long hesitating at the cross-roads. Choose your course with open eyes and follow it with a cheerful heart.

\*The division for last month should have read "February" instead of "January."

### Library Instruction in Normal Schools\*

Ida M. Mendenhall, librarian, State normal school, Geneseo, N. Y.

#### II.

The second topic to be discussed is, What is being done by the normal schools in library instruction?

Pioneer efforts in introducing such a course of instruction are already being made in some of the normal schools of the country. Michigan is the pioneer state in this form of library extension and the annual report of the Michigan library commission for 1906 notes as the important feature of its work during that year the establishment in the summer sessions of each of the normal schools of the state of training classes in library science. This plan originated with the secretary of the State board of library commissioners, and the entire equipment for the course was furnished by the board, the instructors sent from the state library, and the expense for the course was paid out of an appropriation made for the purpose by the legislature.

Michigan seems to have taken the initiative in establishing in connection with its work a cooperative school and library department as part of its school system. The work done in 1906 was wholly experimental. This summer the course was elaborated, specialists were brought in for short courses on children's work and reference books, and six or twelve weeks' credit for the work was given by the normal schools. The work was heartily received by normal school presidents, teachers and librarians, and a greater interest was awakened this past summer, especially among the teachers of the schools and a greater appreciation shown by the students in attendance at the summer sessions. The instruction has not yet been introduced into the regular course during the year, but the plan is ultimately to give the course during the

winter as well as the summer sessions. Requests for help in selecting books and in administering school libraries are constantly coming from teachers over the state to the state library, and the state librarian felt that this need could be best met by providing such instruction for the teachers who come to the summer sessions. Those who attend these sessions are usually experienced teachers who know what they most need. Instead of holding a summer school for the librarians of the small towns, as many of the states do, Michigan has met the needs of the teachers of the state. The last step taken by Michigan is the establishment of a library section in the State teachers' association. This will bring the library forces in contact with several thousand teachers, as there will be library speakers for several other sections as well as for the library section. There will also be an extensive display of library tools and model libraries.

In Wisconsin it is now a requirement of the State board of regents that each student of a normal school shall have 20 weeks of library methods before graduation. Each of the seven normal schools has developed its own scheme for carrying on this work. The course includes instruction in the use of the library and reference books and also in the technical processes of library work. The late President Halsey of the Oshkosh normal school wrote last spring regarding the work:

I have often wondered that the normal schools did not include some work of this kind, because it has seemed to us so absolutely essential to the training of intending teachers. We do not give as much work in this line as I should like to have given, but it serves to start our students in an intelligent appreciation of work in the library, and with this start they go on to work out for themselves much more of value. In Wisconsin at the present time there is a movement being made to help train even the rural school teachers to something like an intelligent use of the libra-

\*Begun in February number of PUBLIC LIBRARIES.



ries at their disposal and they are expected to be able to catalog the libraries and to know something of library art if not of library science.

The librarian from the same normal says:

We hear probably fewer comments from students who have taken the course, over their appreciation of its value, than we hear regrets from students who were graduated before it was introduced, over the lack of it. The demand for this work in the state is shown by the number of these earlier graduates who, coming back at the annual commencement season, are eager to get all the help they can at that time. We have many gratifying expressions from graduates who are organizing school libraries.

Missouri during the present year has taken an advance step in establishing a State library commission and creating a department of library and school co-operation which shall provide instruction in library methods in the normal schools. There is, of course, as yet no definite account of their plans.

The N. E. A. has for many years been working on the problem of library instruction in the normal schools and in 1906 published a hand-book for the use of normal school librarians in giving such a course of instruction. The committee on library and school coöperation of the American library association is making an investigation in the normal schools over the country as to whether this hand-book is being used this year as a text book in courses of library instruction. Notwithstanding the 300 letters sent out last February, only 71 answers have been received. The results show that library instruction is being given, besides those in Michigan and Wisconsin, in the following normal schools:

Bloomsburg, Pa.; Winona, Minn.; Los Angeles, Cal.; Chico, Cal.; State normal university, Normal, Ill.; Southern Illinois normal university, Carbondale, Ill.; Terre Haute, Ind.; Emporia,

Kan.; Cedar Falls, Iowa; Geneseo, N. Y.

Of more value than general statements and theories is the record of actual experience in working out such a course in a normal school. After experimenting with short courses in the normal schools of Indiana and giving general talks at teachers' and library institutes, it was a great opportunity to have an entire year with the students of a normal school. In the Geneseo normal school last year a required course of instruction was introduced for the senior class. This course consists of one lesson a week during the last term of 20 weeks for each senior class. Most of the students of the normal school come without any experience in using a library. They have never been trained to get information quickly from books and to use the tools and indexes of the library in looking up material on a subject. The aims of the course are:

- 1) To familiarize the student with the arrangement of the library and reading room and with the keys to an intelligent use of each.
- 2) To acquaint him with the best books for supplementary reading in the grades, that he may be able to select the books for a class room library.
- 3) To prepare him for administering a school library and teaching pupils to use it intelligently.

The following instruction is given:

- 1) Arrangement of reading room and library with the location of different classes of magazines, back numbers of magazines, bound magazines, children's books, etc.
- 2) Arrangement and use of the card catalog.
- 3) The use of the indexes to periodical literature.

In connection with this work each member of the class is assigned a special topic for research and required to exhaust the resources of both normal school and public libraries both in periodical literature and in books. The topic assigned is some subject in geography or history taught in the method classes or in the regular work of the Model school. The bibliography is expected to be made according to standard form and arrangement.

- 4) The intelligent use of a single book.

Attention is called first to the title page and the information one gets from it, the

significance of author, publisher and date. The significance of preface and the arrangement and use of the table of contents and index are given.

After these lessons have been given the members of the class go into the grades of the model school and into the high school classes to give practical lessons. The lessons given in the normal and high school are on the arrangement of the reading room and library, the use of the card catalog and periodical indexes. The lessons in the grades are on the proper treatment of books, how to open a new book correctly, and how to use the index and title page. The eighth grade is also given a lesson on the use of Poole's Index and the Reader's Guide as the class does some reference work in history, and they are given a trip to the public library in small groups and a lesson is given there on the use of the card catalog. The subject-matter of the lessons in the different grades is not the same nor is the manner of presentation. In the first four grades little is given except how to treat books and how to open new books properly, and the lessons are made interesting by personifying the book and using the story form. These lessons are not given mechanically, but when the occasion arises, for example, the morning at chapel exercises when new song books were distributed, directions were given for opening them correctly and each child opened his own book without breaking the back.

5) Use of reference books:

Dictionaries.

Century dictionary.

World almanac, etc., etc.

6) Reference books useful to teachers:

Granger, Index to poetry. Salisbury, Index to short stories, etc.

7) Helps teachers can receive from the public library.

8) Helps teachers can receive from the State library commission or state library.

9) Selection of children's books.

Librarians usually say of teachers, that they know more of psychology and method than they do about the inside of books for children. Such a quantity of books are on the market that are made to sell that the selection of children's books is one of the greatest problems to the teacher. There are picture books poor in line and color, and vicious in sentiment, and ruined by silly jingles; collections of verse that is not poetry at all, only cheap sentiment in rhyme; fairy stories that are a jumble of impossibilities from beginning to end, without the flavor of the good old fairy story; nature books that are weakened by the elements of personification and fairy story; and books of fiction that teach children to despise their elders. One who does not have some principles of

selection and does not know some of the best lists of children's books is helpless. Problems are assigned which acquaint the seniors with these best lists, graded, classified, and lists on special subjects such as story telling, Christmas buying books, and the anniversaries.

Besides familiarizing students with these helps in the selection of books, different classes of books are discussed and principles given to guide in their selection. In picture books, for example, the class is shown some exquisite editions illustrated by Howard Pyle, Walter Crane, Jessie Wilcox Smith and others, and the genuine work of these illustrators is compared with some of the cheap imitations and with picture books of the Sunday supplement type.

Another problem is the selection of pictures suitable for the walls of the different grades and also of the cheap prints, Perry, Elson, etc., to supplement the work of each grade. Suggestions are given for the selection of pictures and for classifying, arranging and indexing such a collection of miscellaneous pictures for school use.

10) Technical instruction on the administration of a school library.

Almost no technical instruction has been given yet, as class room libraries could not be purchased for the model school. The plan for this year is to give seniors actual practice in accessioning, labeling, mending, classifying, devising charging system, etc., for these class room libraries, as preparation for administering their own school libraries when teaching. The difficulty here is in the supervision and revision of work with a class consisting of perhaps 100 members.

The course so far is only preliminary, but enough has been given to show the need for just such instruction. Experienced teachers in the training class have heard for the first time of periodical indexes; they have gotten the idea of how to investigate a subject, which will make them at home in any library, and they have been made acquainted with helps in selecting books of which they had known nothing. Time and available material have been saved by the students because they have been taught to use reference books and the index of a single book. If they have learned nothing except that the library is a quiet laboratory for work and research, the normal school will have accomplished a part of its duty toward the coming teachers of the state.

### Bookbuying

Bulletin No. 34 of A. L. A. committee

The Bookbuying committee of the A. L. A. recently sent to the American publishers' association a letter pointing out the advantages that may come to both parties through greater coöperation between libraries and publishers. Among other points emphasized in the letter were the following:

Libraries find that as new books are placed on their shelves they not infrequently lead patrons to buy copies for their own use. Modern methods of business are now displacing the bookseller in most small towns and cities, and it is becoming increasingly difficult for publishers to put copies of their publications, especially of the more serious ones, within sight and touch of a great number of people. We do not advocate the development of libraries into bookselling stations; but we would call attention to the fact that the work libraries now do in placing books before the public could be done somewhat more systematically and probably more to the advantage of booksellers and publishers were there a cordial spirit of coöperation between libraries and bookmakers. In many cities of this country libraries could well be made to serve in a measure as sample-rooms for publishing houses. They could especially well serve in this capacity for books of the less popular kind, which are precisely the books more difficult of sale by advertisement and rarely found in department stores.

Certain advantages would follow from the use by publishers of a more nearly uniform style of slips for book circulars. There would be in this, of course, some loss of individuality, a loss which could be counterbalanced in a measure by the use of different types. Were the latest books advertised on slips of uniform size and style and were those slips printed on one side only, so that they could be cut up and mounted for cards, bulletins, etc., they would be more acceptable as advertising material in public libraries, and probably would not lose influence with the booksellers and the individuals to whom they might be mailed. We believe that these advertising slips or lists should tell more clearly the important things about the books they advertise. Libraries certainly, and we think many book borrowers also, would like to know in untechnical terms how large an advertised book is, just what it is about, if an art book what the illustrations are, etc., etc.

Of special books and of books appealing to few readers, the sales to libraries are probably larger than any of your mem-

bers suppose. Most libraries buy through local dealers or through an agent in the nearest large city. Few libraries send orders directly to publishers. We call attention to this fact because, while it is getting to be well recognized by some that library purchases make possible the publication of certain special books, many publishers and book dealers still seem to think that libraries buy comparatively few of the better books.

We wish to express our approval of the publishers' reinforced bindings for libraries. It may seem at first sight not good business for publishers to reinforce a binding in order that it may last longer. The public library, the publisher may suppose, replaces a book with a new copy as soon as its cover breaks. This, however, is not the case. In the first place, many libraries refuse to purchase books of considerable merit which they would otherwise put on their lists, and sometimes in large quantities, because of their very fragile character. In the next place, books purchased in publishers' cloth, not reinforced, are universally rebound when the covers break and are then kept in circulation until too soiled for use. This is more expensive to the library than it would be to pay an additional ten cents for reinforced books which may never need rebinding. The added expense to the library for rebinding, broken books goes to the binder, not to the publisher for new copies. Whereas, with reinforced books, the added expense to the library goes to the publisher for other, new, books.

The letter is signed by J. C. Dana, B. C. Steiner and W. P. Cutter.

In a recent address before the American society for university extension in Philadelphia, Mr Putman of the Library of Congress is reported by the *Philadelphia Ledger* to have spoken as follows:

There should be a lopping off of the supply of current light literature by our libraries. It is popular and, being light, circulates with great rapidity. Many libraries have a large proportion of works of this sort, because a large circulation of their volumes is a good thing to show when money for the libraries is wanted from city councils. There are many other facilities for supplying the demand for this type of literature cheaply, and I doubt the wisdom of doing it at public expense through the libraries. Even if their circulation should be cut down one-half, the libraries ought to reform on this matter.



### Illinois Library Institute

The second Illinois library institute of the year was held at the Adams memorial library, Wheaton, Ill., January 24. There were 47 library representatives from 22 towns as follows: Evanston 7, Aurora 6, Wheaton 5, Chicago 4, La Grange, Oak Park and Glen Ellyn 3 each, Hinsdale and Joliet 2 each; one each from the following towns: Wilmette, Maywood, Batavia, Blue Island, Elgin, Geneva, Lake Forest, Lombard, Pullman, Naperville, River Forest, Highland Park and Des Moines, Iowa.

The morning session was devoted to a librarian's round table, presided over by Mary Eileen Ahern, president of the Illinois library association, who opened the meeting with a short talk on the purposes of an institute and a general résumé of library conditions in Illinois. Taking up library administration Miss Ahern gave some valuable suggestions to librarians in the matter of book buying and book selection. She said, Know why a book is cheap before buying it. Booksellers are entitled to a legitimate profit, and in trying to buy cheap books a librarian should know why the book is cheap before buying it. The matter of paper, print, binding and editions require careful attention. There are sometimes good reasons why it is offered below list price that offer nothing against the desirability of a book. Publishers' remainders and books offered by such reliable firms as McDevitt-Wilson, usually are worth considering.

In ordering books make the order clear and concise and when mistakes occur, call attention to them promptly. It is best to make out orders in duplicate, keeping one copy for comparison.

Such library records as are kept should be carefully made and preserved so that in case of any change in staff the work may be taken up by others without appreciable loss of knowledge as to what has been done.

A general discussion of considerable interest followed on book buying and book selection. It was reported by some

present that the booksellers were very slow in filling orders for books in reinforced bindings. Some criticism was offered as to the justice of the claim of some special library binders, both as to durability and promptness in filling orders. The names of several binders in the vicinity of Chicago were given. Reserved books, the value of bulletins, various points in regard to the public catalog, circulation of magazines, prevention of book mutilation, and other problems which confront the librarian, were interestingly discussed.

The discussion was very general and good suggestions were received from Rev. P. C. Wolcott of Highland Park, Miss Hopper of Joliet, Mrs. R. M. Barrickman of Blue Island, Miss Congdon of Lake Forest, Mr. Preston of Hinsdale, Miss Baldwin of Wheaton, Mr. Reade of Lombard, Miss Thain of Oak Park and many others. There were many book lists on exhibit, showing where the best books can be bought for the greatest number at the least cost. Much of this material was at the librarians' disposal to carry home.

The afternoon session was called to order at 2:00. The round-table was continued and the subject of making a permanent organization, under the name of the Northeastern Illinois library association was brought up. This was left to the consideration of those present to be taken up at another time. General questions were asked and answered on various subjects of interest.

Some of the questions discussed were: Shall the library staff read library literature on library time? How can the public be made to understand the classification and the use of the catalog? Restricting children to the use of the children's room. Cleaning soiled books. Re-registration. Guarantors and the line between books for children and adults.

At 4 o'clock the subject of the afternoon, The work of the public library with schools and clubs, was taken up. This session was largely attended by local teachers and others interested in libraries and schools. Miss Scripps of

Evanston gave a short talk on the work the traveling libraries were doing with the schools. Miss Wright of the Evanston public library told of the effective work done there with the schools. Pictures and books are circulated and are much appreciated by the teachers and pupils. Miss Whitcomb, children's librarian, Oak Park, discussed the necessity of teaching the children the use of the card catalog and how to find books on the shelves. This has been done most successfully in Oak Park.

Miss Ahern then introduced the speaker of the afternoon, J. B. Russell, superintendent of schools, Wheaton, who gave an interesting talk on the Relation of the library and the school from the school's point of view. He said the schools appreciated the work the library was doing for them and they were glad to co-operate in any way possible.

Miss Lyman of Oak Park interestingly discussed the Children's story hour. Miss Lyman said that many librarians of small libraries, knowing the advantages of story telling and wishing to stand well in their community, establish the story-telling hour when, in fact, they have neither the time nor the ability for it. Story telling is only of value as it is an opening wedge to literature. That one cannot do story telling, does not mean that she is not going to be successful in children's work. Instead of spending time preparing a story to tell to a group of children, rather take one child and make one book so interesting that he will read it. In closing Miss Lyman told, by special request, a story which was appreciated by all present.

This was followed by a paper read by Miss Hopper of Joliet on Work of the library with study clubs. This paper will appear in full, later, in PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

A social hour followed and tea was daintily served in the reading room of the library by Mrs. and Miss Wells.

The evening session was devoted to two general topics. Alice S. Tyler, secretary of the Iowa library commission, discussed the Place of a library in

a community and Miss Ahern spoke frankly and interestingly on the status of library affairs in Illinois.

Miss Tyler told of the work the Iowa library commission was doing and how necessary some such supervision of library work was in any state. She pointed out the fact that the purpose of the public library movement was not so much to induce people to read more, individually, but to induce more people to read. The public library presents to every individual in a community an opportunity for continuous growth and development of character. Miss Tyler sketched the history of library commissions and told of their aims and the work they were doing. She said the library did not draw a line as to who may come to the library, and the door is open wide to receive all. The library should stand as a center of service and happiness to a community.

Miss Ahern showed why Illinois should have state supervision of library extension, giving a history of the attempts made to procure such administration. Illinois has no provision for state supervision or extension of public libraries. As a consequence weak and non-progressive libraries receive no stimulus from without; they remain stationary or retrograde, and large sections of the population are without the intellectual and spiritual refreshment afforded by books. It is hoped that the next legislature will remedy this condition of things. In closing, Miss Ahern made an appeal to all who had access to those in the legislature to induce the latter to vote for a library extension bill at the next session of the legislature.

VIRGINIA BAIN, Secy.

How shall we get boys and men into the library? Keep eternally at the people through the newspapers. Have something brief and to the point appear every day or two and write it yourself. A lunch-cart would make a good branch library in which to take books to the doors of manufactories and so reach the working people.

### Concerning Increased Canadian Postal Rates

Editor PUBLIC LIBRARIES:

As a Canadian librarian, permit me to take exception to the terms of the resolution of the public library board of Woodstock, Ont., quoted in your January number (p. 30).

Circumstances have enabled me to form a fairly accurate opinion of the attitude of educated Canadians, all over the Dominion, toward the so-called Intellectual Preference, and I have no hesitation in saying that, while the principal statement of the Woodstock resolution is just, that is, that the increase in postage on United States periodicals was a mistake, the reasons urged in support of the resolution are inaccurate and misleading in nearly every particular. The impression conveyed, whether intentional or not, is that some outside authority, presumably British, has been attempting to "force on the Canadian people" the literature of "another and far continent." The eloquent author of the resolution probably meant England, but his pen ran away with him. As a matter of fact, the reduction in postage on British periodicals has been advocated in the Canadian parliament, and urged by the Canadian press, for years, past, and so far from its being forced on the Canadian people, the British government only consented very reluctantly to pressure from Canada, the reduction in postage involving a serious drain on the revenue of the British postoffice.

The Woodstock board share the popular misconception that the increase in postage on American magazines was one side of a sinister plot, of which the decrease in postage on British periodicals formed the other. This plot had its origin in the heated imagination of some yellow journalist. The increase on American periodicals was entirely distinct from the British reduction. It was the result of a conference between the postmasters-general of the United

States and Canada, and was demanded by Canada primarily for financial reasons. The Dominion postoffice was carrying tons of cheap American periodicals throughout Canada, for every pound of Canadian material carried by the United States postoffice.

Behind this question of revenue, there was undoubtedly a desire to stem, if possible, the flood of worthless trash that was pouring into the country. Unfortunately, the increase in postage has had an entirely different effect. It has operated to shut out to a serious extent the better class of American magazines and newspapers, which, from their limited circulation, must necessarily come by mail, while the objectionable stuff has simply been diverted from the postoffice to the express companies, and flows over the boundary in undiminished volume.

Those who have at heart the mental and moral welfare of the Canadian people are now casting about for some more feasible plan of reaching their ends, which are briefly these: To shut out of the country as far as possible the scores of wretched, if not dangerous, periodicals that flood both the English and American worlds, and replace them by clean and wholesome material. In this they must have the sympathy of every right-minded American librarian, who would not admit to his reading tables the periodicals which Canada is trying to exclude.

LAWRENCE J. BURPEE.

Postmaster-General Myers tells of an over-strict librarian:

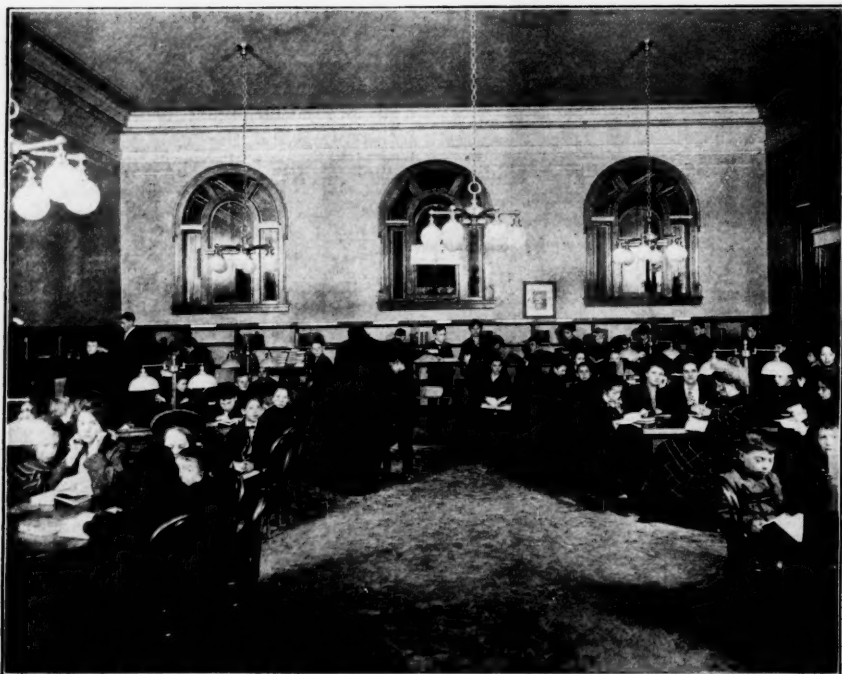
This librarian was very strict and censorious. Once, when I was a boy, I returned a volume of Scott to him. He, as usual, looked closely into the book's condition before marking it off on my card.

Page 89, he said, glaring at me over his spectacles, a hole. Then he turned the leaf. Page 90, he added, another hole.

### Building Progress in St Louis

The gift of Andrew Carnegie to the St Louis public library amounted to \$1,000,000, of which one-half was set aside by the donor for the construction of branches. By the terms of the donation, the Library Board agreed to obtain the sites, furnish the books and provide an annual maintenance fund of at least \$150,000. Two of the branch libraries are now in operation, a third

are the Barr, at Lafayette and Jefferson avenues, completed September 17, 1906, and the Cabanne, at Union and Cabanne avenues, completed July 27, 1907. The former cost \$72,000 and the latter \$80,000. A third, the Carondelet, at Kraus and Michigan avenues, should be ready for opening during the coming spring. Its cost will be about \$74,000. The fourth branch, not yet named, will be located at Seventh and Soulard streets,



is nearly finished and the site for a fourth has been recently secured. The plans for the central building, for which the board has an admirable location in the downtown section, were accepted in preliminary form during the past summer, and are now in the final stage of preparation for the letting of contracts. The present article will attempt a brief description of these buildings.

The branch libraries now in operation

opposite one of the new small parks, and a fifth, probably to be erected at the same time, will be assigned to the northern part of the city. Two others, making seven in all, will complete the branch system as at present planned.

These branch libraries, though differing one from another in exterior design, are uniform in size, and follow a general scheme of interior arrangement, similar to that adopted in Brooklyn and Pittsburgh. They are of two stories.

main floor and high basement, with sufficient ground to permit of attractive embellishment with lawn, trees and shrubbery. The main floor comprises the children's and adults' reading rooms, the delivery room, the stack space, the staff quarters (in the basement at the Barr) and the librarian's office. The two reading rooms average about 1200 square feet each in area, and the stack room about 1500. The shelves, including

ried out in material of suitable richness, and the decoration and furnishings are of high quality. The Library Board desires, in other words, that these buildings shall be not only centers for the reading and distribution of books or for gatherings of the neighborhood, but also expressions of an advanced civic taste.

The central library, construction on which will begin with the coming



the wall shelving of the reading rooms, will accommodate from 15,000 to 25,000 v. In the basement of each building, in addition to the public toilets, storerooms and heating plant, are two public meeting places, the club room and the auditorium, seating respectively about 125 and 200 people.

All the branches are attractive in appearance. The general design is car-

summer, is to be a three-story building, about 225 feet long by 165 feet deep, with ample space around it for landscape decoration and with a small public park in the rear. Its cost is now estimated at a little more than \$1,250,000. This structure, if the hopes of the Board are carried out, will not only be a well-arranged and useful library, but one of the noble monuments of the city.



### A Timely Hint

*The Dial* has long held first place in the hearts of most librarians as the critical journal whose opinion is fair, keen and really worth while. There has been considerable added interest lately on account of the bright, crisp column under the title *Casual Comment*, a comparatively new feature in which library affairs receive the same attention given to other interesting things. The following from the *Dial* of Dec. 1, 1907, is of interest:

Public library borrowers of fiction are much fewer in proportion to the whole number of public library patrons than an unthinking reader of circulation statistics would infer. For example, the Grand Rapids public library numbers about 15,000 card holders; but in the past year, as has been ascertained, only 3890 of these persons drew fiction, while of this number 1050, or barely 7 per cent of the library's patrons, drew more than 60 per cent of all the novels drawn, and 152 drew 16 per cent. Therefore, the familiar report that two-thirds, or three-quarters, or four-fifths of a library's total circulation has been fiction need not induce gloomy apprehensions of a softening of the public brain. Probably not more than a quarter of the card holders—and those largely in the sentimental stage of their adolescence—are readers of novels only. Indeed, it is probable that not so many as one-quarter read nothing more serious than story books from January to December; and even readers of innumerable novels may actually spend more time over a few serious books than over fiction in the course of the year. Ten historical or scientific works might easily demand more hours of reading and study than a hundred novels of the day. The latter are often run through at odd moments as a "rest cure" after strenuous intellectual labors. Furthermore, hundreds and thousands of novels are taken from the library and returned unread, or but partly read. A chapter, a page, a turning of the leaves, perhaps, or a glance at the end, may convince the borrower that the book has no meat for him, and back it goes. While, then, signs of serious-mindedness are always to be welcomed in public library patrons, there is no cause for despair in statistical evidences of even a greatly disproportionate borrowing of fiction.

The status of the librarian as the representative of a learned profession was commented upon by Mr Carnegie in his speech at the recent laying of the corner-stone of a new library building in Glasgow. He deplored especially the low estimation in which

librarians are held in Great Britain and urged a more generous recognition of their services. These words of the laird of Skibo the secretary of the Library assistants' association regards as almost equivalent to insult added to injury. "From Mr Carnegie," he says in the association's official journal, "such remarks are simply amusing, seeing that by building bookless, incomeless libraries, he has done more than any man to bring ill-equipped men into the profession. A Carnegie provincial library that cannot afford books cannot afford to pay a professional librarian, and the man appointed is simply another unfit recruit. The satire of Mr Carnegie is even more biting when he compares the superior technical training of the American librarian with ours, seeing that he has never lifted a finger in this country for the education of the librarian." Without heartily applauding the censorious tone of this utterance, one may appropriately enough urge that the admitted zeal and unselfishness of library workers deserve more handsome recognition, in terms of dollars and cents, both from the private benefactor and from the public treasury. Librarianships, like professorships, might well be endowed. This by way of suggestion to any man of millions who is haunted with the fear of dying disgracefully rich.

### Interesting Things in Print

The January, 1908, number of the *Quarterly of Kansas City (Mo.)* contains a considerable number of most interesting reviews of current books.

The Free library commission of Wisconsin has inaugurated a *Quarterly Index of Current Events* under the direction of H. E. Legler. The index will be issued in accumulated form, serving as an index to newspapers for the entire year.

There has been issued, from the Department of interior, Canada, a pamphlet on Canada's fertile northland. Specially good maps accompany the pamphlet, giving considerable late and accurate information in regard to the development of the country. A limited number will be distributed free of cost.

The Legislative department of the Virginia state library has issued the following lists: State aid for highway construction, Child labor, Traveling libraries, State boards of control, Com-

pulsory education, Game commissions and wardens, Pure food, Railroad rate legislation, Boards of equalization of taxation and Traveling auditors.

The *A. L. A. Booklist* for February contains a list of industrial art books. The list is one found to be of popular use in the Public library, St. Joseph, Mo.

An offer is made by the Publishing Board to reprint these if a sufficient number of orders are received before March 10.

The first important biography of the year is that of T. A. Edison under the title of *Sixty years of an inventor's life*, by Francis A. Jones. It is prepared from original sources, much material being supplied by Mr Edison himself, and is told in a most interesting style, giving a book replete with anecdotes, descriptions of inventions and illustrations.

*New York Libraries* is the title of the new bulletin "published quarterly in the interest of the libraries of the state by the University of the State of New York."

E. H. Anderson, W. R. Eastman and Asa Wynkoop compose the editorial board. The personal touch in comment, suggestions and news of library extension from the state library department will be a valuable aid to library development where it is needed in New York.

The State historical society of Wisconsin has issued, as Bulletin of information No. 37, an account of an experiment in the Kellogg public library at Green Bay, in holding a local history story hour by which the early history of the state was brought home and made interesting to the children through the means of the library. The Bulletin contains a number of suggestive hints as to the conduct of the story hour as well as lists of the books used in the local history work.

*Street's Pandex of the News* is the title

of a weekly index and digest of the contents of leading newspapers of the United States which was started the first of the year in Chicago. It cumulates periodically and each number contains a revised list of dates of coming events. This latter is particularly useful in many directions.

The publication continues to grow with each issue and bids fair to be a very helpful adjunct to Poole and the Wilson indexes.

The John Crerar library of Chicago has recently issued a handbook, giving a sketch of the founding and progress of that library. Considerable space is given to a biographical sketch of the founder, together with a formal expression of his wishes in regard to the character and scope of the library. A description of the plans and growth along the line of extension adopted by the library is given. The library started with 20,000 v. and now has over 200,000 v. The outline for the future set forth in this handbook promises one of the most complete and effective institutions among the libraries in the United States.

Elfrida Everhart, reference librarian of the Carnegie library of Atlanta, and instructor in the Southern library school, has completed the manuscript of what should prove to be an exceptionally useful and valuable library tool—a Handbook to United States public documents. One who has had an opportunity of reading the manuscript, describes the work as admirably clear, concise, accurate and well arranged. The Handbook will probably appear some time in the Spring, and will be a boon not only to librarians, but to everyone who has occasion to consult the public documents of the United States.

In answer to repeated requests for the wording of the Maxon book-mark it is given here:

"Once on a time" a Library Book was overheard talking to a little boy who had just borrowed it. The words seemed worth recording, and here they are:

Please don't handle me with dirty hands. I should feel ashamed to be seen when the next little boy borrowed me.

Or leave me out in the rain. Books can catch cold as well as children.

Or make marks on me with your pen or pencil; it would spoil my looks.

Or lean on me with your elbows when you are reading me. It hurts.

Or open me and lay me face down on the table. You would not like to be treated so.

Or put in between my leaves a pencil or anything thicker than a single sheet of thin paper. It would strain my back.

Whenever you are through reading me, if you are afraid of losing your place, don't turn down the corner of one of my leaves, but have a neat little Book Mark to put in where you stopped, and then close me and lay me down on my side so that I can have a good, comfortable rest.

Remember that I want to visit a great many other little boys after you are through with me. Besides, I may meet you again some day, and you would be sorry to see me looking old and torn and soiled. Help me to keep fresh and clean and I will help you to be happy.

### Some Recent Books on Useful Arts

- Andrewes. Lessons in disinfection and sterilization. 1907.
- Brannt. Practical dry cleaner, scourer and garment dyer. 1907.
- Brown. Principles and practice of dipping, burnishing, lacquering and bronzing brassware. 1900.
- Carr. Open hearth steel castings. 1907.
- Gant. Elements of electric traction for motormen and others. 1907.
- Gress. American hand-book of printing. 1907.
- Hawkins. Erecting and operating. (c1907.)
- Holford. Twentieth century toolsmith and steelworker. 1907.
- Housden. Practical hydraulic tables and diagrams. 1907.
- Janet. Major symptoms of hysteria. 1907.
- Kershaw. Electric furnace in iron and steel production. 1907.
- Latta. Hand-book of American gas-engineering practice. 1907.
- McLaren. High living. (c1904-07.)
- Marks. Notes on the construction and working of pumps. 1907.
- Merwin. American system of dressmaking. (c1907.)
- Richey. Building mechanics' ready reference. 1907.
- Shaw. Air currents and the laws of ventilation. 1907.

### An Appeal from American Forestry Association

We have made a beginning in forest preservation, but . . . only a beginning . . . The country is unquestionably on the verge of a timber famine. . . The only trouble with the movement for the preservation of our forests is that it has not gone nearly far enough and was not begun soon enough. It is a most fortunate thing, however, that we began it when we did. We should acquire in the Appalachian and White Mountain regions all the forest lands that it is possible to acquire for the use of the nation. These lands, because they form a national asset, are as emphatically national as the rivers which they feed, and which flow through so many states before they reach the ocean.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT, President.

The forest problem is far-reaching. Through timber supply alone it affects the welfare of the whole nation. It underlies the problems of irrigation, drainage, soil conservation, control and use of rivers and the safeguarding of the public health.

"Large areas of northern China have been rendered uninhabitable in consequence of deforestation, the hills being reduced to rocky skeletons and the valleys being filled with coarse sand and gravel.

Throughout northern China the floods which have caused the Yellow River to receive the name, The grief of China, are an immediate result of the deforested condition of the hills and the consequent rapid running off of the spring and summer rains."

The conditions resulting from deforestation cited in the preceding statements add greatly to the severity of famines, since they very greatly reduce the productive area and occasion the failure of crops in flooded regions.

BAILEY WILLIS,  
U. S. Geological survey.

When the individual can stay alone with his conscience and get its approval, without using force or specious logic, then he begins to know what real happiness is. But he must be careful that he is not appealing to a conscience perverted or deadened by the wrong doing and subsequent deafness of its owner.



## Library Schools

## Carnegie library of Atlanta

The monthly tea in the class room on January 29 was an occasion of unusual interest, since it marked the last appearance of Miss Wallace as a guest of the class before her approaching marriage. The staff, faculty of the Library school, resident graduates of the school, and the members of the class assembled to greet her. She was asked to be seated, while Major Charles W. Hubner, who has been her fellow-worker in the library during almost the entire time of her service, expressed in a few fitting words the feelings of the gathering; the daily affection that had been hers, the sadness at severing the ties of years, and the abundant good wishes for her happiness in her new home. As a tangible expression of these sentiments he then presented to her on behalf of the staff and students a copy of Rosetti's *Dante's Dream*. The picture was framed in mahogany and the inscription on the gold plate read:

Presented to Anne Wallace on her wedding day, with the love of the staff of the Carnegie library and the class of 1908.

Miss Wallace expressed her appreciation of the gift in a few felicitous words.

The occasion was a mixture of joy and sorrow for all concerned.

## Changes in positions of graduates

Carrie Daily, '06, is cataloging the library of the school for the deaf at Cave Spring, Ga.

Claire Moran, '07, has completed the organization of the library at McAdenville, N. C., and is reorganizing the Carnegie library at Newnan, Ga.

Susan Simonton, '07, is organizing the library at Miss Berry's Industrial school for boys at Rome, Ga. On March 1 she will enter on the duties of librarian of the Public library at Alexandria, La.

Eva Wrigley, '07, is organizing the Public library at Anderson, S. C.

MRS PERCIVAL SNEED.

## University of Illinois

The members of the senior class are spending the month of February in field work among the larger public libraries in this state.

The students are having experience in all phases of public library work, but are receiving special opportunities to work in reference, loan and children's departments. Their semi-weekly reports show great interest and enthusiasm for the work, and serve to confirm the impression of last year that the experiment is a decided success. At the close of this month, the class will meet in Chicago for the annual visit of inspection. Miss Simpson will be in charge of the party which will be quartered at the Hotel Stratford.

The junior class, in charge of Miss Price, visited the Decatur public library, the James Millikin university, a local bindery and printing office in Decatur on Lincoln's birthday.

Adah Patton, '02, has entered the catalog department of the University of Illinois library.

The resignation of Bertha E. Royce, 1904, from the Library school faculty was accepted with great reluctance. Miss Royce had entered upon her fourth year of service in the school, and her loss is one not easy to supply. Miss Royce was married in Denver, Colo., the latter part of December to W. G. Hummel, U. of I., '07. Her present address is Agricultural College, N. M., where Mr Hummel is a member of the faculty.

Florence Curtis has been appointed to fill the instructorship made vacant by Miss Royce's resignation. Miss Curtis received the degree of B. L. S. from the New York state library school in '96, and since then has had experience in public, normal school and subscription libraries, having served for six years as librarian of the Potsdam (N. Y.) normal school library, and coming to Illinois from the Saratoga (N. Y.) Athenæum.

FRANCES SIMPSON.

**Pratt institute**

The annual luncheon and business meeting of the Graduates' association took place at the Hotel Chelsea in New York, on January 29, with an attendance of 75 persons. The following officers were elected for the year 1908: Harriet E. Hassler, president; Ruth S. Crannis, vice-president; Julia G. Robeson, secretary; Mabel A. Farr, treasurer.

At the luncheon, Miss Weeks, registrar of the institute, was the guest of honor. Miss Weeks spoke briefly and inspiringly on the value in library work of the tendency to personality and sensitiveness which are so often decried as disadvantages peculiar to women; asserting that these very disadvantages, if taken by another handle than the usual selfish one, may be made invaluable tools for the strengthening and vivifying of the work, and giving examples of cases where this had been done.

In addition to the regular list of lectures printed in December, the school had the great pleasure and profit in that month of hearing three lectures by T. Cobden-Sanderson, two on bookbinding, to which were invited a number of members of the Bookworkers' guild of New York; and one on the Arts and Crafts movement, to which the entire institute was admitted. The technical lectures, delivered without tools or illustrations, except some slides in the second lecture, were admirably graphic and the third lecture was one of the most inspiring an institute audience had ever listened to. The little "teas" with the lecturer after each lecture, to which a few people were invited, were especially pleasant.

The present class effected its organization in November, electing Anna M. MacDonald, president; Agnes F. Greer, vice-president; Gilbert O. Ward, secretary, and Donald Hendry, treasurer.

A pleasant variation of the lecture-schedule occurred on January 21, when the class went to the lecturer instead of the lecturer's coming to the class; in this way securing not only Mr. Dana's

lecture on Printing, but also a visit to the Newark library, and a view of the exhibit of printing posted at that library.

On February 11, the school expects to welcome Henry E. Legler as a lecturer, for the first time. The A. L. A. committee on library training will meet in the director's office in the morning, and the Round table of library school directors at the same place in the afternoon. Both bodies are invited to luncheon at the institute, and to remain to Mr Legler's lecture and to tea in the schoolroom afterward.

The latest addition to the collection of the printed work of graduates kept by the school is the List of books exhibited by the John Crerar library, including incunabula and other early printed books in the Senn collection, compiled by Selma Nachman, of 1905.

A recent investigation into the geographical distribution of 232 graduates now holding library positions, gave the following results: New York, 117; Pennsylvania, 17; New Jersey, 13; Ohio, 11; Wisconsin, 8; District of Columbia, 8; California, 7; Connecticut, 7; Massachusetts, 6; Minnesota, 6; Oregon, 6; Illinois, 5; Nebraska, 4; Georgia, 3; Iowa, 2; Kansas, 2; Colorado, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Virginia, Washington, each 1, and Canada, 4.

The spring trip this year will be to the libraries of Pittsburgh, Braddock, Duquesne, Homestead and McKeesport, occupying six days, including the journey both ways. The party will start March 30—April 3.

**Recent news of graduates**

Hetty S. Jarnagin, '07, and formerly librarian of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, died January 16, in Pittsburgh, of pneumonia.

Julia T. Rankin, '98 and '99, has been appointed librarian of the Carnegie library of Atlanta, and director of the Southern library school.

Harriott E. Hassler, '98, has resigned her position in the Portland, Ore., library to become head of the

children's department in the Queens Borough library system.

Lois Jordan, 1907, was appointed to a position in the cataloging department of the Minneapolis public library in January.

Bertha Wildman, 1899, has been appointed secretary to Librarian A. H. Hopkins, of the Carnegie library of Pittsburgh.

Ethel Sawyer, 1906, has resigned her position as librarian of the Stevens Point, Wis., normal school and has been engaged for several months' cataloging by the Michigan state library. She will also assist in conducting a summer class in library methods at Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

Luella O. Beaman, 1906, is substituting in the Pratt institute free library for Miss Kneeland, 1907, who goes abroad for the spring months.

MARY W. PLUMMER, Director.

#### Western Reserve university

During the month of January students' practice in the Cleveland public library took the form of assignments in the various children's rooms where they both observed and helped in the work as it is there being carried out. This plan is a new feature of the course, planned in connection with the lectures in children's work, by Miss Burnite.

On the occasion of a trip eastward by Mr Legler of the Wisconsin free library commission, the school was fortunate to secure him for a lecture on library commission work, given at the school February 3. An especially interesting feature of the lecture was Mr Legler's account of the newest department of commission work, that of Legislative reference. The school also enjoyed a call from Miss Browning, of the Indianapolis public library, on February 6. She spoke informally to the students, giving them a hearty welcome into the work for which they are preparing.

On January 18, Miss Whittlesey entertained at dinner the class of 1908, and a few members of the faculty. After dinner the evening was delight-

fully spent in music and in a contest wherein the guests attempted to render graphic representations of one another with colored crayons.

Frances Hunter, '06, has been appointed librarian of the Steele high school library, Dayton, Ohio.

#### Winona technical institute

The library school at Indianapolis began its second term on January 6, with three summer school students admitted to the class of '08, as follows:

Daisy Henley, librarian Public library, Wabash, Ind., from the New York state library summer school; Edith Andrews, substitute in Public library, Seymour, Ind., and Susan Weimer, former librarian Public library, Union City, Ind., from the Indiana library commission summer school.

With the opening of the second term, the director has begun the course of lectures on the History of libraries. Roxana G. Johnson, from the University of Illinois library school, has entered upon her duties as instructor in a manner which proves that the work so well begun by Miss Phelps is in safe hands.

Carrie E. Scott, assistant organizer for the Public library commission of Indiana, has been giving an outline course in children's library work and will continue until the spring vacation, which begins March 13.

A week has recently been spent in classifying and cataloging the Indianapolis Teachers' college library, which has afforded excellent supervised practice.

A meeting is called for February 25 to discuss the future of the Library school interests of Indiana.

MERICA HOAGLAND, Director.

#### Wisconsin

On January 22, Chalmers Hadley of Indiana gave an inspiring address on Some Indiana libraries.

On January 23, the class visited the Bureau of industrial research, which is

conducted by the department of economics in the University of Wisconsin. J. B. Andrews explained the work that was being done in collecting material relating to the labor problem and socialism; the class had the opportunity to examine the method of organizing and cataloging this material, which is in charge of the Historical library.

January 24, Dr F. J. Turner of the university closed the semester's work in book selection with a valuable lecture on the Evaluation of books in American history. On the same day the class attended the convocation of the university to hear President Eliot, who gave the address of the occasion. Examinations began on Saturday, January 25, and continued through Friday, January 31.

On Monday, February 3, the students went to their appointments for the two months of practical work in the libraries of the state.

#### **An important event**

The opening of the next school year will mark an important epoch in its history. The University of Wisconsin, in recognition of the school's standards of entrance, course of study and scholarship, will hereafter grant 20 hours (five hours each semester) of credit toward the B. A. degree for work done in the Library school in the junior and senior years. During the freshman and sophomore years students in the university will follow the usual college courses, but will elect those calculated to make the best foundation for library work; at the end of the sophomore year they will take the entrance examinations of the Library school.

The regular one-year course, as now conducted by the school, will be continued as heretofore; and such students as are admitted to its classes from the university will divide the library course between two years instead of completing it in one, and for their university credits during these years will elect subjects correlating with library work.

They will, of course, receive their instruction in the regular classes of the school. As tentatively planned, the courses for the university students will be arranged for the two years as follows:

Junior year. First semester: Reference (2 hours), Loan (1), Classification (2). Second semester: Reference (2), Public documents (1), Subject bibliography (1), Library economy (1), with practice work, for which facilities will be offered by the Free library commission and in the Madison public library.

Senior year. First semester: Cataloging (3), Library economy (1), Book selection (1). Second semester: Book selection (1), Administration, etc. (2), Cataloging documents (1), Library economy (1), with practice work and thesis. The thesis will be under the direction of the university department in which the student chooses her major subject; the bibliography included in it will be accepted by the Library school in satisfaction of its thesis requirements.

Field practice. Two months of actual library work in an approved library, preferably in Wisconsin, will be required by the Library school before its diploma is granted. This work, for which the director of the school will arrange, can be done during the summer, following either the junior or senior year.

#### **Special notices**

The entrance examinations for the Pratt institute library school take place June 12, 1908. The term opens Sept. 17, 1908.

The Wisconsin library association will not hold its annual meeting in February as usual, but the members will meet at Minnetonka in June. Only routine business, such as election of officers, etc., will receive attention at that time, so that attendance and interest may be given to the meetings of the A. L. A.

### Public Document Queries

"To collect documents is one mode of serving your country, and to remember the contents of a document is another." (George Eliot, in *Middlemarch*.)

Because many small libraries have a confusion of public documents, there is much perplexity as to what course to pursue in regard to them that shall reduce them to a state of order and a consequent useful collection. Questions in regard to them are being asked over and over until it has seemed best to collect in one place the answers, so that there may be a saving of time and labor by having in print the answers to these questions, to which inquirers may be referred.

Everyone is cordially invited to use this department, and all questions will be given the same attention as though a personal answer were sent.

Questions should be sent to the editor of this department, A. R. Hasse, 425 Lafayette street, New York City. Signatures will be considered confidential and will be answered, as far as possible, in order of receipt. In the answers to questions concerning arrangement and matters other than cataloging it will be stated whether the library from which the question emanates is a public, reference or college library.

Question 3.—Kindly answer the following question through Public document queries:

Title-page: Translation of the law of criminal procedure for Cuba and Porto Rico (with Spanish text), with annotations, explanatory notes and amendments made since the American occupation. War department, Division of Consular affairs, October, 1901. Washington, 1907.

Would the correct entry for this be under Spain, laws, statutes, etc., or under Porto Rico, laws, statutes, etc., with a card also under Cuba, laws, statutes, etc.? We have a classed catalog.

The question involved is the simple one of authorship made in this case confusing because the book in question

is made up of fragments from books by two different official authors.

The book is a collection of laws of a royal government relating to a colonial dependency and of laws in substance relating to the same territory no longer a royal dependency, but a protectorate of a foreign government.

The first part of the book (pp. 1-248) comprises portions of the statutes of Spain relating to Cuba and Porto Rico, or rather portions of the criminal code of Spain in force in Cuba and Porto Rico. Neither Cuba nor Porto Rico as Spanish colonies had the power to enact laws. All laws governing or relating to the colonies were enacted by the home government, hence Spain statutes (or any variation of Spain statutes in use in the respective libraries) is the proper entry. The part of the book in question is merely an English edition of the part of the Spanish code in force in the Spanish West Indian colonies. If the library were cataloging the original code entire there would be no question of the authority of Spain for the whole. Concisely stated then, the resolution would be to retain as author of a fragment, the author of the whole production.

Pages 249-358 of the book in question comprise various orders issued by the Cuban military government in 1899 and 1900 during the American occupation of that island. The administrative authority of this government was vested in the military division of Cuba, U. S. A., and was executed pursuant to orders issued by this division. Such of these orders as affected the criminal procedure in the territory under military rule are reprinted in the book under question. They are only a fragment of the whole number of orders issued, during the two years named, by the military division of Cuba. This division is only one of the many military divisions of the U. S. A., all of which are under the supervision of the adjutant general's office. If a library, therefore, had the complete orders of the military government of Cuba for



1899 and 1900 (of which the book under discussion is but a fragment) the proper entry would be U. S. Adjutant General's office, Division of Cuba. I myself place the "Division of Cuba" on the second line of the card, and file all military divisions, extant or extinct, alphabetically under adjutant general's office.

Lastly, the publisher of the book, the Division of Insular affairs, should have an entry. In the New York public library the translator of the book, F. L. Joannini, is also credited for his part of the work. The entries referred to are all author entries or variants.

This question provides an opportunity for referring to a point, the importance of which in cataloging documents cannot be overestimated, viz., that in cataloging any document, everything is subordinate to a clear understanding of the relation of the administrative authority responsible for the document.

### Atlantic City Meeting

The twelfth annual meeting of the New Jersey library association and the Pennsylvania library club will be held at Atlantic City, March 13-14, 1908.

There will be three business sessions at Hotel Chelsea, as follows: Friday, March 13, 8:30 p. m.; Saturday, March 14, 10:30 a. m.; Saturday, March 14, 8:30 p. m.

The first session will be held under the direction of the Pennsylvania library club, the second under the direction of the New Jersey library association, and the third will be a general session. An outline of the proposed program is given below.

There will be a meeting of the American library institute at the Hotel Chelsea on Thursday evening, March 12, 1908.

The usual reduced rates will be given by railroads and Hotel Chelsea.

Members of other library clubs and

friends in adjacent states are cordially invited to be present and to take part in the meeting.

### Outline of proposed program:

#### First Session.

Chairman: John Thomson.

Address of welcome. Franklin P. Stoy, mayor of Atlantic City.

Response by the chairman.

The organization of labor. Mary L. Jones, acting librarian, Bryn Mawr college library.

The division of public records and what it has accomplished. Luther R. Kelker, Pennsylvania state library.

What the library means to one small town. Mary A. True, librarian, Foxburg, Pa.

The reality of fiction. Frank B. Heckmann, Free library of Philadelphia.

#### Second Session.

Chairman: Beatrice Winsor.

What a boy finds interesting in a book. Everett T. Tomlinson, Ph. D., Elizabeth, N. J.

Literary journalism in theory and practice. Fredrick C. Brown, *The Nation*, New York City.

The measure of a librarian by an old Greek pattern. Mrs. Henry L. Elmendorf, assistant librarian, Buffalo public library, Buffalo, N. Y.

#### Third Session.

Chairman: Arthur E. Bostwick.

Essentials of library administration. Thomas L. Masson, editor of *Life*, New York City.

Library economy and economy in libraries. Morris Jastrow, jr, Ph. D., librarian and professor of Semitic languages, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.

What constitutes a civilized man? James Hulme Canfield, Lit. D., librarian, Columbia university, New York City.

Announcement of the Travel committee of the A. L. A. for conference of 1908.

The February *Riverside Bulletin* contains a list of all the biography published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co. There are more than 200 subjects including practically all Americans of note and many famous foreigners. This bulletin contains some interesting portraits and is furnished with an index, so that it is well worth saving for future reference. It may be obtained by librarians upon request.

### Library Meetings

**District of Columbia**—The District of Columbia library association having received an invitation from the National society of the fine arts to attend its first lecture of the season, it was voted to let this lecture take the place of the regular January meeting of the association. The two societies met together on Thursday evening, January 16, in the auditorium of George Washington university and listened to a very interesting address by William Dana Orcutt of the University Press, Cambridge, Mass., on Printing as a fine art. Mr Orcutt gave an account of the origin of the art of printing and showed the necessity the early printers were under of producing books which could compete in artistic appearance with the beautiful illuminated manuscripts of that period. The spread of the art throughout Europe was traced by a description of the work of Gutenberg, Aldus, Étienne, the Elzevirs, the Plantins, and other great printers of the past. Coming down to modern times the speaker told of the revival of interest in printing as a fine art, as exemplified in William Morris and his beautiful edition of Chaucer, the product of years of labor. The lecture was richly illustrated by stereopticon views.

The regular monthly meeting of the association was held in the children's room at the Public library, Wednesday evening, Feb. 12, 1908, with an attendance of about 100 persons, President W. D. Johnston being in the chair. After the reading and approval of the minutes of the last meeting, Azariah S. Root, librarian of Oberlin college, addressed the association briefly.

The first speaker on the program was J. C. H. Hanson, chief of the Catalog division of the Library of Congress, who gave some very interesting Reminiscences and impressions of the Glasgow conference of September, 1907, which he attended as official delegate of the American library associa-

tion. Mr Hanson confined his remarks principally to personal experiences, without attempting to give a full account of the proceedings of the conference. His description of the exceedingly hospitable manner in which the British librarians were entertained in the city of Glasgow was especially interesting to those of his hearers who have attended various conferences of the American library association. To quote some of his words:

The opening feature of the conference at Glasgow was a reception to the visiting librarians given by the corporation of the city at the municipal chambers, on Monday evening, September 16. All the ceremonial rooms of the vast building were thrown open to the guests, who consisted of the members of the association and about 2000 of the élite of Glasgow. It was difficult for one accustomed to A. L. A. conferences to realize that the highest city officials and the best society of the second city in the kingdom had here put in an appearance to welcome a body of 200 librarians. Throughout the week that followed the American delegate was destined to have it forced upon him again and again that the Library association occupies quite a different place in the estimation of the people of Great Britain than does the A. L. A. here in America. Others will be able to explain this more satisfactorily than I. One or two reasons may, however, be referred to in passing. Ours is a much larger country, in area as well as in population. We are a busy people, more given to the practical affairs of life than to literature and books. Ours is also a young nation. When its history shall extend back for 1200 years or more, perhaps a representative body of American librarians may be received as were the members of the Library association at Glasgow.

Mr Hanson spoke of the attendance of Mr Carnegie, who made two brief

addresses, one before the association and one at a luncheon following the laying of the cornerstone of the new Mitchell library. In both addresses, but particularly in the second one, Mr Carnegie held up the example of American library and civic enterprise as well worthy of emulation by the libraries and municipalities of Great Britain. He paid a high tribute to the work done by a lady librarian of the south, not mentioning her name. Perhaps there were few present, aside from the American delegate, who knew that he was picturing the work of Miss Wallace, of the Carnegie library of Atlanta.

The British librarians impressed me as readier and more experienced debaters than the average A. L. A. member. There were life and snap in the proceedings, perhaps less regard for an opponent's feelings, and more of the give and take sort of exchange than we are accustomed to.

One feature noted by Mr Hanson was the part taken in some of the discussions by men not librarians, but evidently trustees, or otherwise connected with or interested in libraries, some of them persons of great influence and high standing in their communities.

The post-conference excursion of the association was a day's trip by rail, steamer and coaches from Glasgow to the estate of the Marquis of Bute, whose castle and grounds were thrown open for the occasion. The entire cost was about one dollar for each participant. Mr Hanson closed by paying a tribute to the unfailing courtesy and kindly attention which the British librarians extended to their guests.

The next speaker was Dr Cyrus Adler, who gave a brief historical account of the International exchange service conducted by the Smithsonian institution. WILLARD O. WATERS, Sec'y.

**Iowa**—On February 12, the Library club of Iowa City held its first regular meeting for 1908 in the trustees' room

of the public library. The general topics for discussion this year are the various schools for library training, their aims and standards. A formal report was given, followed by a free discussion. In addition the club is working out a plan of having a selected number of the new and important books reviewed, with a résumé of the leading events in the library world.

The meetings are enthusiastically attended by the staffs of the university and public libraries, with the trustees of the latter. The following officers for the present year were elected: President, Malcolm G. Wyer; vice-president, Jennie Roberts; secretary and treasurer, Caroline Langworthy.

CAROLINE LANGWORTHY, Sec'y.

**Minnesota**—The Twin City library club held its regular meeting on February 3, the St Paul *Dispatch* acting as host. A delicious dinner was served in the lunch-room at 7 o'clock, after which the club assembled in the library room, where Miss Hohler, the librarian, read a very interesting paper explaining the work and purpose of the reference library and information bureau. She said in part:

The library of a newspaper is a storehouse of material for the editorial department. In addition to the general books of reference there is a collection of about 25,000 photographs, all properly indexed and arranged by subject, and the cuts are also filed in the reference room. Every article of news and each editorial is indexed, stating the exact date, page and column where the item appeared. While the library is principally for the use of the newspaper staff, an information bureau has developed in connection with it. One specially interesting feature is the Educational and resort bureau. Catalogs of schools and colleges of every description are on file so that information can readily be furnished to parents or students. Through the Resort bureau the man who is planning his vacation may obtain description of attractions offered by vari-

ous resorts, kind of fishing, price of hotels and boarding-houses, cost, etc.

Miss Hohler read extracts from a number of letters which had been received, illustrating the wide range of questions which come to the bureau, varying from "Who founded the city of St Paul" to "Whether it is proper for a man to take off his hat in a passenger elevator," these going to show that the newspaper reaches a class of people not ordinarily in touch with public libraries.

William B. Stout, better known as Jack-Knife, gave a delightful talk on the newspaper as a factor in industrial education, showing models that had been made by boys throughout the state from suggestions given in the *Dispatch*.

The library, which is furnished and decorated in excellent taste, was made even more attractive by palms and gay bunches of daffodils, and altogether the *Dispatch* spared no pains to make this meeting one of the most enjoyable the club has ever held.

**Pennsylvania**—The third meeting of the season was held on Monday, Feb. 10, 1908, at the Widener branch of the Free library of Philadelphia. The meeting was called to order by John Ashurst, who introduced the speaker of the evening, John L. Stewart, librarian and professor of economics and history at Lehigh university.

Taking for his text the well-known remark of Burke's, There are three estates in Parliament, but in the reporters' gallery yonder there sits a fourth estate, more important far than they all, Professor Stewart gave an interesting talk upon the main features connected with the evolution of the power of newspapers, from the days when the Star Chamber was the strict censor of all published expression of public opinion, to the present time, which is so far removed from the seventeenth century that not since 1798 has the United States government felt that suppression of the freedom of the press has been necessary, nor has any prosecution for

political libel been brought in England since 1832.

The censorship of the Star Chamber was relaxed after the period of political and religious revolution was over, and a more tolerant view of news pamphlets was held until the passage of Fox's libel act in 1792, which provided that in prosecutions for libel the jury might give a general verdict of guilty or not guilty upon the whole matter put at issue upon the indictment, thus relieving the press of obstacles to its development.

The word editor in the modern sense of a director of a great corps of newspaper writers, was unknown until 1803, and the opinion commonly held, that "No gentleman would write for newspapers, no gentleman would read the newspapers," has not passed away in England at the present day. All the earlier newspaper editors in the United States were social and political outcasts, either French or Irish, whose resentment against the suppression of expressed opinion in their own country found vent in the virulence with which they attacked public men in America. To the reader accustomed to the modern hero-worship of Washington, it is a remarkable revelation to read the criticisms of his policy expressed in the *Aurora* in the last decades of the eighteenth century. The "Sedition Law" of 1798 was passed by the Federalist party to check this unbridled expression of opinion, but was so obnoxious in its severity that it resulted in the defeat of the party two years later and was repealed as soon as Jefferson came into office.

A great change in feeling has taken place since the days of the *Aurora*. The newspaper world is no longer made up of social and political outcasts, while the newspaper has ceased to be simply a party organ, and has become a tremendous factor in political education.

The meeting was followed by the usual reception and tea.

EDITH BRINKMAN, Sec'y.

## News from the Field

## East

The Public library at Meredith, N. H., received \$10,000 by the will of the late Major E. E. Beede.

Etheldred Abbot, New York '97, has resigned her position as librarian of the Art department of Wellesley college to become assistant librarian of the Brookline (Mass.) public library.

The report of Harriet L. Matthews, librarian of Public library, Lynn, Mass., shows 76,916 v. on the shelves and 207,861 v. circulated for home use. The plan of distributing books through the schools has been eminently successful.

The nineteenth annual report of the Public library of Portland, Me., shows a circulation of 104,526 v. with a registration of 3970; volumes on the shelves, 61,798; visitors to the reference room, 18,371; the salaries amounted to \$6374 and books, binding and periodicals to \$2266.

The report of the Worcester (Mass.) public library records 163,401 v. and a total recorded use of 396,817 v. There was an increase of 12,574 v. for home use. The expenditures for the year amounted to \$49,431; the large items of expense were the librarian's salary, \$1600, assistant's salary \$1220, amount for books \$9364.

The report of the Marlboro (Mass.) public library shows a circulation of 44,422 books, with 21,300 v. on the shelves. The inter-library loan system has been extremely satisfactory. During the year a collection of Italian books has been added. The work of the library is much hampered by the lack of shelf room. Miss Cotting is librarian.

The report of the Public library of Concord, N. H., records a circulation of 91,232 v., and this despite the fact that the summer branch was closed, through which usually 5000 v. were circulated; 29,078 v. on the shelves. The exhibitions for the year were highly

successful, specially that on Tuberculosis and The spread and check of moths. The subscription libraries of private enterprise have relieved the call on the library for popular fiction.

The report of the Rhode Island state library, as presented to the legislature by H. O. Brigham, state librarian, showed a receipt of 1400 v. for the past year, largely for the use of the legislature, consisting of standard works on economic subjects and books relating to legislation. The library has outgrown its quarters and the librarian recommends that steps be taken to consider possible methods of relief. The routine work of the library has been carried on with increased inconvenience and is limited by the lack of appropriation for necessary help to carry it on.

## Central Atlantic

Charles H. Compton, New York '07, has been appointed assistant in the Reference section of the New York state library.

The Utica public library held an exhibition of recent water-colors by F. Hopkinson Smith during the last two weeks in January.

The report of the Public library of District of Columbia records 92,937 v. on the shelves, 481,463 v. circulated and 45,231 borrowers registered.

George M. Abbot has been elected librarian of the Philadelphia library company to succeed James G. Barnwell, retired. Mr Abbot has been assistant librarian and treasurer of the Philadelphia company for 21 years. He has an intimate knowledge of the valuable Americana and other literary treasures of the historic institution.

W. E. Stevens of the Carnegie library of Homestead, Pa., reports 9500 readers for the past year, 31,166 v. on the shelves and a circulation of 205,000 through the library and its 27 stations.

Maud D. Brooks, N. Y. '05, assistant librarian of the Olean (N. Y.) public library, is reorganizing the Public

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library at Emporium, Pa. This library has been maintained for several years through the generosity of Hon. Josiah Howard.

The entries for the year 1907 in the Copyright office, Library of Congress, reached 125,757, and the articles deposited and credited reached 223,574; the fees reached \$85,942. The catalog of entries for 1907 contains 6155 pages; 117,521 letters, etc., were received and 165,771 answers were despatched.

The report of the Seymour library of Auburn, N. Y., reports an income of \$5800; a registration of 5094; home use of books, 51,309; entire use of the library, 73,221, with 21,107 v. on the shelves. Small traveling libraries are sent out to factories and other places where they do good service. The librarian asks that the library be removed from the list of government depositories, the burden and responsibility of the same for a library with limited space being too great.

The Public library of Washington, D. C., suffered during January from a smallpox scare. The library was closed by the health authorities and subjected to a process of fumigation, and its activities closed for two weeks. Carl P. Vitz, assistant librarian, who was attacked by the disease, recovered without serious harm to himself or contagion to any of the others. The rush of the public to the library after its reopening on January 26 taxed the force of the library so that the regular duties of the library had to be abandoned to meet the needs, there being the largest number of visitors in a single day since the founding of the library.

The annual report of the Public library of New York City shows 1,619,489 v. in the library, of which 621,390 v. are in the circulation department. The number of branches in the circulation department has increased, during the year, from 35 to 37. The total expenditures were \$692,329. The library receives 6382 periodicals in almost every

tongue. In the Oriental department alone, there are 10,700 v.; 15,000 books and pamphlets in Hebrew and 8527 v. in the Slavonic section. There are seven new branch libraries under construction and plans for several other branch buildings are being prepared.

Literature has decreased from 7 per cent to 6 per cent, while the reading of periodicals has increased from 4 to 5 per cent. There are 2919 v. for the use of blind persons and 1745 pieces of music.

The Free public library of East Orange, N. J., has received from Andrew Carnegie \$39,000 to be used for three branch library buildings. The city has accepted the gift upon the usual agreement to furnish sites and 10 per cent for maintenance. With the \$50,000 already given in 1903 by Mr. Carnegie for the main library the city will have received from him \$89,000. The appropriation last year by the city was \$9500. The request for the branch buildings has come from the citizens, not from the directors of the library, and the city has voted for 1908 \$16,000, \$2000 of which is for each branch library. The money is to be used for books for these branches until such time as they are built and opened for use. The branch buildings will each be over a mile from the main library and about a mile and one-half from each other.

The report of Librarian Frank P. Hill, Brooklyn, N. Y., for 1907 is a résumé of the growth of the first decade of the great library service of Brooklyn. Ten years ago the appropriation was \$5000 a year; \$338,971 was appropriated for 1907. Collection numbered 52,872 in 1897, is now 553,217. From one library the service has grown to 26 branches, 2 stations, with cataloging, traveling and library departments, as well as the library for the blind; 13 branches are housed in buildings especially for the purpose and the need for others is still very pressing. Preliminary plans for a central building have been accepted and the work of construction will soon be undertaken.

The total circulation for 1907 was 3,247,144 v., an increase of 10 per cent over last year. The juvenile circulation made 36 per cent of the total and non-fiction, juvenile and adult, about 31 per cent; total registration of borrowers, 242,971; during the year 70,527 v. were added to the library, of which 11,898 were new to the library and the balance were duplicates.

#### Central

The Illinois state law library has been housed in the new Supreme Court building at Springfield.

Grace Darling of Madison, Wis., has been appointed librarian of the Stout schools of Menomonie, Wis.

Mary Moffat, reference librarian at the State library of Indiana, has resigned and is to be married shortly to F. R. Kautz of Indianapolis.

Paul Blackwelder, assistant librarian of the St Louis (Mo.) public library, was married February 18, to Maud Del Mar of New York.

The report of the Public library, Port Huron, Mich., shows receipts for the year of \$7217; 13,794 v. on the shelves; 7000 readers and a circulation of 51,430.

The Bulletin of the Wilmington (Del.) institute free library offers in No. 1, vol. 3, a most helpful annotated book list. The book notes are singularly clear and free from bias.

A plan of circulating library books through the public schools has been adopted by the Public library of Freeport, Ill., assisted by the school authorities of the city.

The report of the Public library of La Porte, Ind., shows 13,262 books on the shelves, from which 29,244 were taken out for home use by 1977 card holders.

Katherine Cossett, for five years assistant librarian of the Public library of Wichita, Kan., has been elected libra-

rian to succeed Anna E. Wiegand, lately resigned.

Florence R. Curtis, New York '96, has resigned her position as librarian of the Saratoga (N. Y.) athenæum library to become instructor in the Library school of the University of Illinois.

Marion Comings, librarian of the Public library, Norwalk, Ohio, has tendered her resignation to take effect April 1. Miss Comings expects later to take charge of the McClymonds library, Massillon, Ohio.

The Sunday schools of Cadillac, Mich., have turned over their libraries to the Public library of the city, feeling that the latter was furnishing interesting and sufficient literature to the young people of the place.

Jessie L. Forrester, librarian of the Art institute, Chicago, Ill., died February 14 at Rutlam, central India, where she was visiting her sister. Miss Forrester is credited with the building of the Ryerson library at the institute, with which she has been connected for 17 years.

The following statistics have been compiled from the report of the Public library of Elkhart, Ind., by Ella F. Corwin, librarian. Number of volumes, 12,360; number of borrowers, 6,511; circulation in 1907, 60,804; income, \$3500; population of city, 20,000.

Jeannette M. Drake, for the past two years librarian of the Jacksonville (Ill.) public library, has resigned her position to take effect April 1. Miss Drake will take up another branch of library work under Cornelia Marvin, secretary of the Oregon library commission.

The books of the Public library of Kewanee, Ill., were moved from the old building to the new by 300 high school students. The work of moving 10,000 v. was done with military precision, required only three hours and was done gratuitously by the students.

The report of the Davenport (Iowa) public library gives for the year's circulation 150,692 v. During the year 4200 v. were added to the library, making a total of 24,296 v. on the shelves and 10,685 readers. Two thousand four hundred books were circulated through the public schools.

The John Crerar library held an exhibit of incunabula and other early printed books in its Senn collection during the meetings of the several learned societies which held sessions in Chicago the first of the year. The library issued a list of the books exhibited, with annotations, forming a pamphlet of 32 pages.

The Grand Rapids (Mich.) public library opened a West side branch the first of the year with about 2000 v. on the shelves and 50 current periodicals. The local telephone company owns the building, but has given the use of it for library purposes to the city for a term ending 1924, the city meeting all necessary expenses in connection therewith.

The report of the State librarian of Ohio shows that 1146 traveling libraries, containing 38,159 v., were issued to 820 different communities of the state. During the year 8728 v. were added, making a total of 121,463 v. in the library. Special emphasis is laid on the importance of special training for library work. The librarian calls attention to the fact that the material of the library is being damaged and the work hindered by the crowded conditions of the library rooms.

The staff of the library of the University of Illinois was increased considerably on February 1 by the appointment of additional assistants. Herbert W. Denio, A. M. (Middlebury, 1891), B. L. S. (New York state, 1894), was appointed special cataloger of the Dittenberger classical library in the University of Illinois library. Adah Patton, B. L. S. (Illinois, 1902), was appointed assistant in the catalog department. The position of order assistant

was also authorized, but the appointment has not yet been made. The staff was also increased by the addition of two shelf assistants on half time and one paging assistant on half time.

#### South

The new public library, McAdenville, N. C., was dedicated with appropriate exercises, January 12.

The report of the Carnegie library of Nashville, Tenn., for 1907, gives the total circulation as 102,894 v. with 32,870 v. on the shelves.

The report of Mrs Annie Smith Ross, librarian of the Carnegie library of Charlotte, N. C., shows a circulation of 40,290 v. with 5050 v. on the shelves and 4653 registered borrowers.

Mrs Maud Barker Cobb of Atlanta, Ga., has been appointed state librarian of Georgia to succeed Judge C. J. Wellborn, resigned. Mrs Cobb has been assistant librarian for some time.

During February the Rosenberg library, Galveston, Texas, held an interesting Shakespeare exhibit consisting of 146 facsimile copies of rare old prints, such as famous Shakespeare portraits, scenes from the plays, famous actors in costume, old playbills, etc.

The fourth annual report of the Virginia state library shows a renewed spirit in the activities of the institution. The work has recovered, apparently, from the interruption of a year ago and Librarian McIlwaine outlines progressive plans for future activities. The State library performs the extension work and provides traveling libraries, in addition to the regular functions of a state library. A larger staff, larger appropriations and more space are greatly needed for the work of the library.

Anne Wallace, late librarian of Carnegie library of Atlanta and director of the Southern library school, was married February 18 to Max Franklyn Howland of Boston. They will make their home in Boston where Mr. Howland is connected with the Library Bureau.

The Highland branch library of Louisville was opened February 8 with several addresses and appropriate exercises. The building cost \$30,800, including the furniture, and is a model of its kind. It has over 5000 v. and is well supplied with lecture rooms for classes, clubs, etc.

#### West

Through the efforts of the North Dakota library commission a new public library is to be organized at Minot, N. D., starting with 500 books from the A. L. A. suggestive list and 500 from the Pittsburg home library list. Clara H. Kunst, of the Antigo (Wis.) public library, has been appointed librarian.

The eighth annual report of the Public library of Leavenworth, Kan., by the librarian, Asa Don Dickinson, shows a total circulation of 41,675 v. The total number of registered borrowers is 2,767, as against 1909 in 1906, an increase of nearly 50 per cent. During the year 2500 books have been added to the library, 2400 of these by purchase. The librarian has addressed classes in the various schools, and traveling libraries have been placed in two schools, the board of education paying the cost of transportation. The pupils in the higher grades of the schools have visited the library by classes.

#### Pacific coast

Evelyn A. Hobbs, graduate of the Forbes library training class, '07, has been appointed assistant in the circulation department at the Seattle public library.

Dorothy Hurlbert, formerly librarian of the Public library at Hudson, Wis., resigned that position in January to become librarian at the Ballard branch of the Seattle public library.

Marion D. Thum, formerly assistant in the circulation department of the Cleveland public library, resigned that position December 1, to accept an appointment as assistant in the circulation department of the Seattle public library.

Mrs Marcella Krauth has been appointed librarian of the Public library of Alameda, Cal., to succeed F. B. Graves, who resigned to become librarian of Mechanics' institute library in San Francisco. Mrs Krauth was assistant under Mr Graves.

The Public library of Seattle, Wash., has received an additional gift of \$105,000 from Andrew Carnegie to be used in establishing three branch libraries in Seattle. This in addition to \$220,000 already given for the main library. Several free sites have been offered by citizens and the work of building will commence soon.

#### Canada

The new Public library of Brantford Ont., was opened January 24 with an address by Dr Pyne, Minister of education. The building is of brick, and is a gift from Andrew Carnegie. It cost \$12,500.

#### Foreign

The Public library of Cardiff is having during January-March, 1908, a series of public lectures at the various branch libraries throughout the city. Some subjects of the lectures are, Impressions of an Eastern trip; An hour in the moon; Bridges; Siam; Sea birds; Zoological gardens; The Cardiff waterworks; An hour with Welsh musicians. The lectures are illustrated with lantern slides.

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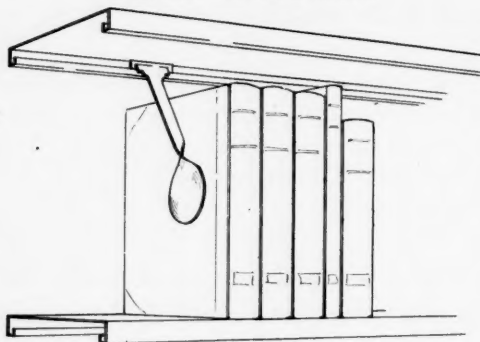
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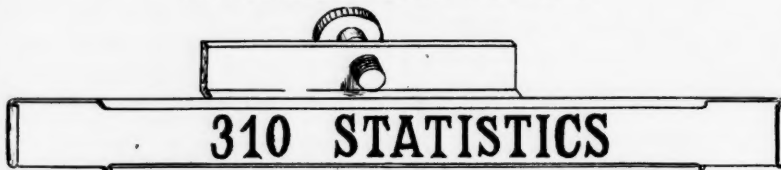
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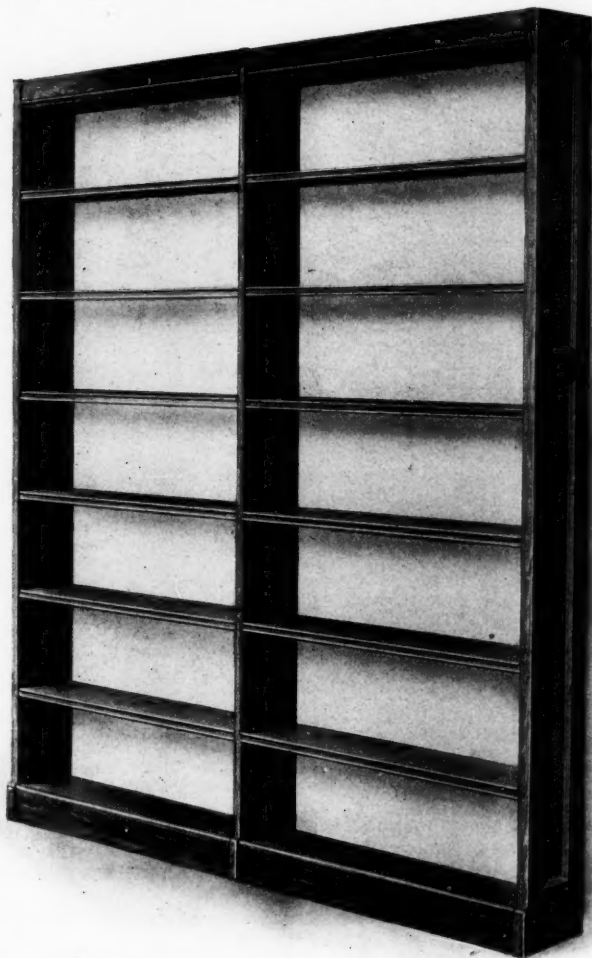
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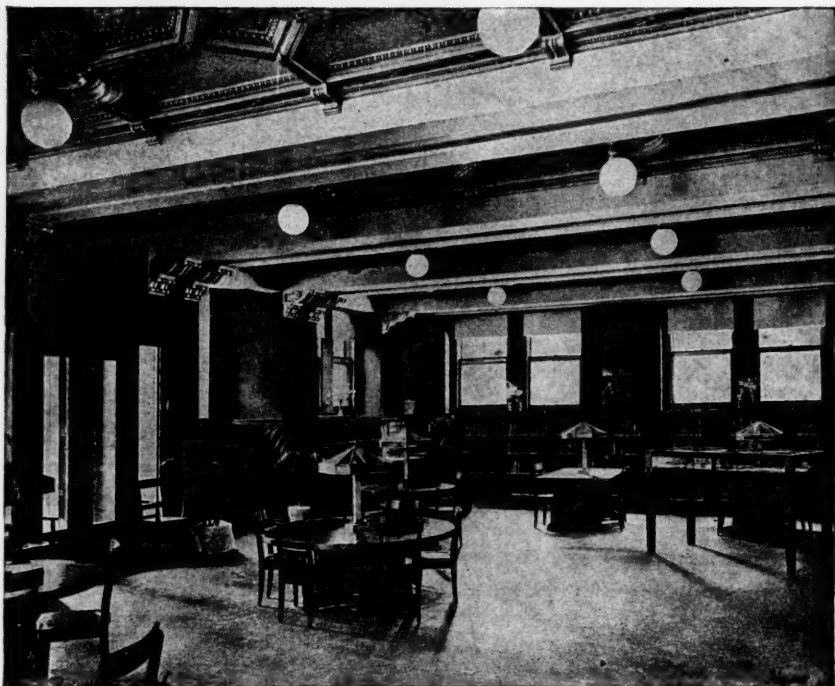
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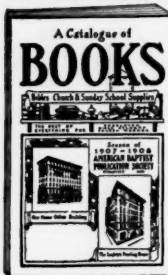
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